



Pensioners receive ultimate Christmas gift... sight!

The spirit of generosity just before Christmas and the collaboration shown by medical experts, volunteers, and partner organisations has brought new hope to 21 visually impaired residents from Atlantis. This comes after the Atlantic Eye Research Foundation (AERF) completed a successful cataract outreach programme at Eerste Rivier Hospital on Saturday, 30 November.



READ MORE ON PAGE 10

MORE SUPPORT IS NEEDED LOCALLY

Organisation warns of increased dangers during festive season

PAGE 3

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Turning black and purple: Residents take a stand against GBV

COURTNEY ARENDSE

Black and purple became more than just a colour on 21 November, when the organisation Women for Change called on South Africans to participate in a national shutdown against gender-based violence (GBV).

Locally, residents, schools and organisations stood shoulder to shoulder, showing that the fight against GBV begins at home and in our streets. The 15-minute pause echoed across Atlantis and Mamre, honouring the average of 15 women who lose their lives every single day to violence in South Africa. The shutdown came just days before the G20 Summit was due to start in South Africa, adding urgency to the call for leaders to prioritise women's safety. *Survivors Haven*, founded by Janine Passenz, rallied members and supporters to participate. Passenz

said gender-based violence affects everyone. "It happens in our homes, and that is why our community must speak out." Her words resonated deeply as people posted videos, gathered in quiet awareness circles and encouraged neighbours to stand outside their homes during the silence. Those who were unable to physically join showed support through social media. Others changed their profile pictures to purple, the colour symbolising justice and dignity for victims of GBV.

South Africa continues to record some of the highest GBV rates in the world, and the 16 Days of Activism once again reminds everyone that this fight cannot be reduced to annual campaigns. It demands consistency, courage and community action.



- Various groups, including Survivors Haven (above), Mamre Library (left) and Clean Vibes (below), held awareness protests during the 16 days of GBV activism





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MANAGING EDITOR
Peter Lategan

PUBLISHER
Impact Unlimited
Media & Communication

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
Atlantis Foundries Business Park, William Gourlay Street, Atlantis Industria

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LAYOUT & DESIGN
Peter Lategan
Dermot Petersen

DISTRIBUTION
Arthur Jephthah
Julian Booysen

DISTRIBUTION AREAS:
Atlantis, Mamre, Duynfontein, Pella, Philidelphia, Witsand and surrounding farming communities

REPORTERS & CONTRIBUTORS
Monique Hansen
Courtney Arendse
Benjamin Smith
Cay-lene Coetzee

ASAR need support to cope with rising missing persons cases

PETER LATEGAN

The festive season is a time of joy when many look forward to celebrations, family gatherings, and holiday traditions. But it can also bring an increased risk for children in communities like Atlantis.

With International Volunteer Day being celebrated earlier this month, *Atlantis Search and Rescue* (ASAR) has issued an urgent call for volunteers to help strengthen its response to missing persons cases across Atlantis and surrounding communities. The organisation warns that the number of missing children, elderly residents, and other vulnerable people typically rises during the holiday period, when families travel, gatherings increase, and young people spend more time outdoors. Strong community participation, it says, is vital to ensuring quick and safe recoveries.

"We urgently need more helping hands on the ground. The festive season is a busy time, and having more trained volunteers can make the difference between hours and minutes when someone goes missing," said Monthany Hendricks, founder and spokesperson of ASAR. While most missing persons in Atlantis are eventually found safe, the frequency of such cases remains a serious concern. ASAR's records show that children and the elderly are the most affected. Child cases are often linked to

running away, wandering off, or lack of supervision, while adult cases usually involve confusion, illness, or other vulnerabilities. The group's success has relied heavily on teamwork between ASAR, SAPS, and the community, leading to many recoveries.

However, the limited number of active volunteers often stretches the team thin. Many members balance family and work commitments while responding to emergencies that can extend into rough or remote terrain. "A good volunteer must be calm under pressure, compassionate, and committed to community safety. We work closely with families during extremely emotional moments, so empathy and patience are key," said Hendricks. Beyond search operations, volunteers gain valuable life skills including teamwork, navigation, and emergency coordination.

ASAR believes that stronger community alert systems could improve search efficiency and help prevent disappearances altogether. Quick communication, information sharing, and real-time coordination can greatly increase the chances of finding missing persons safely and swiftly. Local media, including Impact News, continue to play an important role by spreading alerts, sharing safety advice, and encouraging public involvement. Hendricks urged residents to get involved in any way they can,



whether by volunteering, donating resources, or staying alert to local safety updates. "Every person who joins or supports us helps make Atlantis a safer community for all," she explained.

- Hendricks (third from left) with some of their volunteers at a training event earlier this year

Important numbers to save

- Atlantis Search and Rescue: **061 303 5314**
- Government Emergency Services: **112**
- Atlantis Search and Rescue: **061 303 5314**
- SAPS: **10111**
- Ambulance: **10177**
- Cell Phone Emergency: **112**
- City of Cape Town General Emergency: **107**
- City of Cape Town Cell phone: **021 480 7700**



Polisie kry haelgeweer in Pella huis



Die Atlantis polisie het op Maandag 1 Desember 2025 'n onwettige dubbelloop-haelgeweer by 'n huis in Pella in beslag geneem en 'n 30-jarige man in besit van die onwettige vuurwapen gearresteer.

Volgens SAPS woordvoerder, Lisa Munro, was beamptes besig met misdaad- voorkomingsoperasies toe hulle inligting ontvang het dat 'n vuurwapen by 'n huis in Pella versteek is. Polisielede het vinnig opgetree en die dubbelloop-haelgeweer, sonder 'n reeksnommer, gevind. Die verdagte is gearresteer omdat hy geen dokumentasie daarvoor kon voorlê nie. Hy het op Woensdag 3 Desember 2025 in die Atlantis-landdroshof verskyn.

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Avondale residents on alert after several snakes spotted



-Far left is the solar panel installation, currently under constructions, and left is one of the 'unwelcome visitors' to a home in Avondale late last month.

STAFF REPORTER

The development of a solar panel installation on the outskirts of the Atlantis Industrial Area is having some unintended consequences for residents living in parts of Avondale.

With the recent clearing of the bushes and trimming of the blue gum trees in the area, there has been a marked increase in snakes, spiders and other 'unwelcome visitors' in recent weeks. Several posts on social media and WhatsApp groups from residents living in Bonaventura Crescent and adjacent streets have been making the rounds, warning fellow residents to be on high alert.

In one case, someone alerted residents to his encounter with a Cape cobra coming from the field. Two homeowners found snakes at their gates in Bento and Dageraad Streets, respectively. "Gouda Street is crawling with snakes," said another. A homeowner in Ceres Street said

this was bound to happen with the development in the industrial area, which is only several metres from the first street in Avondale. "The safest thing that the City of Cape Town could have done is to put up safety nets or barricades of some sort to guide the wildlife in a different direction while their natural habitat is being disturbed," she said. A resident who runs an ECD centre in Cilicia Place said they are concerned about the safety of the toddlers, after hearing that there was a snake in the street behind them as well as at a daycare centre in Bonaventura Street. A concerned parent also posted that she had a massive black spider in her yard as well. "It's insects and these creatures crawling around. I have two special-needs children and I can't keep them inside all day. My stress levels are through the roof," she said.

The National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) spokesperson, Mzu Gcukumana, explained that

every provincial health department places an order with the NHLS. The department then decide where to store these vials. The NHLS said the production of antivenom is a complex and time-intensive process. They conceded that there was a shortage earlier this year, but supply has gradually improved in the last few months, with polyvalent, scorpion, spider and Boomslang anti-venom expected to be available since the end of last month.

According to Jihaan Opperman, spokesperson for the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, anti-venom is stored at specific hospitals, strategically positioned to ensure that it can be rapidly dispatched to any location where it may be required. Opperman said this system allows for a prompt response in emergencies to ensure that patients receive the necessary treatment in time. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the closest Medi-Clinic is about

20 minutes away in Sunningdale. It is often said that it takes 20 minutes for cobra venom to kill a human being. When asked, a Department of Health and Wellness spokesperson said the West Coast District has sufficient stock of antivenom at all its facilities, and Swartland Hospital is the nearest hospital to Atlantis that has snake antivenom in stock.

Online tips and snake removers

On the website of the African Snakebite Institute, the following names are listed as snake removers operating in Atlantis and surrounds: Evan Alpert on 083 256 0493, Gary Montague-Fryer on 082 639 4310 and Andrew MacLeod on 071 682 2238. The public can also download the institute's free app.

Best way to keep kids safe on beaches

The City's Community Services and Health Directorate will once again implement the popular Identikidz programme, designed to keep children safe at some of the busiest beaches this festive season.

The concept is simple, but its impact is critical to ensuring children's safety. Parents and caregivers are able to register children at participating beaches. They are issued with an armband that contains a unique serial number. These details are

recorded along with the caregiver's information, so in the event that a child is separated from their group during their beach visit, they can be quickly reunited. During last festive season, 302 children safely reunited with their loved ones thanks to the programme. The programme will run over 15 days, from 09:00 until 18:30 from mid-December to mid-January next year. Participating beaches include Big Bay, Melkbosstrand, Milnerton Beach and Silwerstroom.

MyCiti increases its holiday services

Atlantis, Pella and Mamre residents will be glad to know that the MyCiti service to Silwerstroomstrand will be available again until 4 January 2026, except on 25 December.

The bus service has also announced that their night services in the Atlantis area will operate until 31 January 2026 so that residents can get around town safely during the summer evenings. The services will serve routes 241, 242 and 243. Route 247 will operate

between Atlantis, through Mamre to the Silwerstroomstrand beach. The service has been adjusted to directly connect with Mamre to make it more convenient for these residents. Buses will depart from the Starke stop at 09:00 and 13:00 via Atlantis Station and Mamre, and return from Silwerstroomstrand at 09:38, 13:38 and 18:00.

what are you doing in 2026?

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2

Eight City beaches flying the Blue Flag



3

Table View beachfront upgrade is taking shape



4

Let's stop illegal dumpers in their tracks

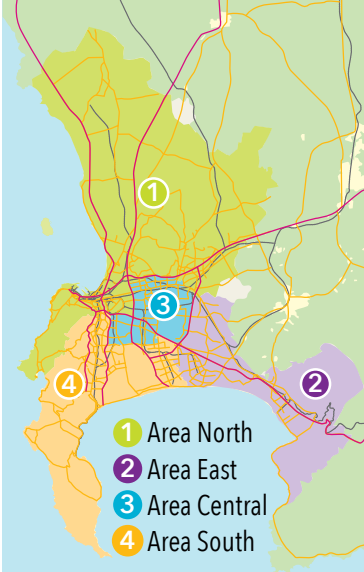


4

Digital system speeds up meds dispensing



AREA NORTH



City calls on residents: Protect Your Power

In 2024/25 alone, the City spent some R60 million on electricity infrastructure maintenance and replacement. Yet this massive investment is jeopardised by theft, vandalism and illegal power connections across our communities and along major roadways.

The City's Protect Your Power campaign calls on residents to watch over the power infrastructure in their areas and report any suspicious activity anonymously to the Public Emergency Communication Centre (PECC) on 021 480 7700. With this first-of-its-kind campaign, the City hopes to drive home the message that vandals and cable and power thieves ultimately leave communities, neighbourhoods and roadways in the dark. Therefore, it's in residents' own interest to help the City protect power infrastructure.



Lighting up Area North: The light-emitting diode (LED) upgrade and replacement project is part of the City's continued investment in electricity infrastructure, ensuring that communities benefit from reliable services that are both modern and cost-effective. Ongoing maintenance of electricity infrastructure also improves safety for communities and road users. Several streetlights in Kraaifontein (pictured above) were upgraded to LEDs, while critical infrastructure maintenance was undertaken at the same time.

City crews geared for fire season

Summer brings a higher risk of fire, so the City's firefighters stand ready to help keep urban, informal and rural communities safe.

The Fire and Rescue Service plays a crucial part in the City's interdepartmental Festive Season Safety Plan. Cape Town's hot, dry and windy summers increase the risk of both vegetation fires and devastating blazes in informal settlements. Over the past few summer seasons, these incidents have increased. Additionally, the Service responds to structural fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material spills and water rescues.

In terms of the Festive Season Safety Plan, fire crews will be on duty 24/7 at all 32 City fire stations to deal with any type of emergency. Aerial firefighting support in the form of two Huey helicopters will be available from 1 December. Other resources include a fixed-wing light spotter aircraft to assist the command and control centre during veld fires, as well as 96 dedicated wildland firefighters, who will be strategically deployed to cover areas prone to runaway vegetation fires.



Report any fires or other risks to life or property to the Public Emergency Communication Centre on 021 480 7700. For fire safety tips, enter 'Fire safety' in the search box on www.capetown.gov.za.

Prepared to protect: The City's interdepartmental Festive Season Safety Plan is operational, with the Fire and Rescue Service being a key stakeholder to safeguard lives and property during Cape Town's dry and windy summer.

Licence disc drive-through now serving

The City's first vehicle licence renewal drive-through in Brackenfell enables motorists to renew their licence discs without leaving their cars. The drive-through is meant for those who have received renewal notices via SMS. Motorists need only show the SMS to be assisted.

The cashless facility currently operates from 11:30 to 19:30 Mondays to Fridays, and from 11:00 to 14:30 on Saturdays. The City is working to extend weekday operating hours. Once finalised, the new times will be shared with the public.

This is another innovation aimed at making transacting with the City easier. It follows the successful launch of the online booking system for key municipal services.



One new licence disc coming up: A cashless drive-through facility for vehicle licence renewals is one more way in which the City is making its services more accessible.



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KORTLIKS

Die gevaar van brande verhoog in die somer, en daarom is brandbestryders by die Stad se 32 brandweerstasies op gereedheidsgrondslag. Twee Huey-helikopters en 'n vastevlerk-opsporingsvliegtuig sal beskikbaar wees om gedurende veldbrande te help, en 96 toegewyde veldbrandbestryders is ook reg om hand by te sit.

Die projek om verouderde straatligte met LED-lampe te vervang is deel van die Stad se voortgesette investering in elektrisiteitsinfrastruktuur. Dit sorg dat gemeenskappe betroubare, moderne en kostedoeltreffende dienste ontvang.

Die Stad het slegs in 2024/25 sowat R60 miljoen

aan die instandhouding en vervanging van elektrisiteitsinfrastruktuur bestee. Nietemin dreig diefstal, vandalisme en onwettige kraagaansluitings om dit ongedaan te maak. Met sy veldtog Protect Your Power moedig die Stad inwoners aan om enige verdagte aktiwiteite aan te meld.

Danksy die Stad se eerste deurryfasiliteit vir die hernuwing van voertuiglisensies in Brackenfell kan motoriste nou hulle lisensieskywe henu sonder om hulle voertuie te verlaat. Diegene wat hernuwingskennisgewings per SMS ontvang het, hoef slegs die boodskap te wys om bygestaan te word.

KHAWUNDIBALISELE

Nanjengkuba linyuka inani lemililo ehlotyeni, amaqela okucima imililo aza kuhlala elindele nantoni enokwehla kwiinyure zonke (24/7) kuzo zonke izitishi zethu zokucima imililo eziyi32 zeSixeko. Kuza kubakho iinqwelontaka ezimbini eziza kusetyenziswa zeHuey kunye nenye encinci esetyenziselwa ukucima imililo esisigxina eziya kuthi zinedise xa kukho imililo yamadlelo. Kuya kubakho nabacimimlilo abajongene nemililo yamadlelo abangama96.

Uphuculo lwezikhanyisi ezisebenzisa umbane (LED) zeSixeko neprojekthi yokuthenga esinye yinxalenye yotyalamali oluqhubekayo kwizibonelelo nakwizixhobo ezisebenza ngombane, ukuqinisekisa ukuba uluntu luyazuza kwiinkonzo ezithembekileyo zamvanje nezingabizi kakhulu ngokwasemalini kananjalo eziphucula ukhuseleko.

Ngo2024/25 kuphela, iSixeko sichithe iR60 miljoni kulungiso lwezibonelelo zombane nasekuthengeni ezinye izibonelelo ezitsha. Olu tyalamali lukhulu lumoshwa kukubiwa kwezinto, ukutshatyalaliswa kwazo kunye nokufakelwa kombane ngokungekho mthethweni. Iphulo leSixeko lokuba uMntu aKhusele uMbane waKhe (Protect Your Power) licela abahlali ukuba baxele xa bebona kusenziwa izinto ezikrokrisayo.

Iphulo leSixeko lokuqala lokuhlaziywa kweelayisenisi zezithuthi elenziwa umntu ehleli kwisithuthi sakhe eBrackenfell linceda abaqhubi bezithuthi ukuba bahlaziye iidiski zezithuthi zabo bengaphumanga kuzo. Abo baqhubi bezithuthi abafumene izaziso zohlaziyo ngeSMS badinga nje ukuveza izaziso eso ukuze bancedwe.

Eight Blue Flag beaches to choose from

Eight City beaches have again qualified to fly the Blue Flag for the 2025/26 season, running from 1 December to 28 February. They are Bikini Beach, Camps Bay, Clifton 4th, Fish Hoek, Llandudno, Melkbosstrand, Muizenberg and Silwerstroomstrand.

First introduced in 2001, Blue Flag status is awarded to beaches that meet high standards of environmental management and education, water quality, safety and services. The accreditation, which includes an international adjudication process, is facilitated by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA).

- Enjoy responsibly**
- If you'll be heading to our beaches this summer, please be mindful of the golden rules:
- Swim only where and when lifeguards are on duty, sticking to the area between the red-and-yellow flags.
 - Beware of rip currents.
 - Don't swim while under the influence of alcohol.
 - Always actively monitor children in and around water.



Flying the 'flag of fabulous': Melkbosstrand is among the eight Cape Town beaches that have secured Blue Flag status this summer, certifying their high standards.

Let's honour Cape Town's icons and heroes

You might recall that, in 2023, we revived the tradition of bestowing Civic Honours on remarkable people who have made our city and the world a better place through their talents and service. I said at the time that this would become a regular occurrence once more, with a Civic Honours ceremony to be held every two years.

We have kept our word. In mid-November, we bestowed Civic Honours on another group of exceptional people, as well as awarded Mayor's Medals to no fewer than 18 individuals and organisations across various categories. This followed an extensive public call for nominees.

But there is another accolade that is even more prestigious and rare – one that hasn't been bestowed in Cape Town for almost a decade – and that is the Freedom of the City. Previous recipients include the late President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I am very proud to announce that we will once again be bestowing the Freedom of the City on not one, but two



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

exceptional Capetonians.

They are two separate recipients who have each individually contributed greatly to our city's cultural heritage. But they are perhaps best known for the wonderful work they produced together as long-time musical and theatre collaborators. I am speaking, of course, of Cape Town's cultural icons David Kramer and Taliep Petersen. In Taliep's case, the award is made posthumously, and his family will accept

the award on his behalf.

Through iconic musical theatre productions such as *District Six: The Musical* and *Kat and the Kings*, this duo managed to blend social commentary and activism with unmatched musical entertainment, bringing us remarkable Cape Town stories on themes such as forced removals, identity, and community resilience.

I cannot think of two Capetonians more deserving of this honour, and the overwhelming support from Capetonians since we first announced this news has confirmed what an incredibly popular nomination they are. We will bestow the Freedom of the City on David and Taliep at an event at the Grand Parade in January, and I cannot wait to share this joyous occasion with many of you.

They will take their place alongside previous Freedom of the City recipients and titans of history, and will forever be celebrated as Cape Town's finest cultural ambassadors.

Geordin Hill-Lewis
Cape Town Mayor

Collaborating to keep our rivers clean

Thanks to City grant funding, The Litterboom Project has installed eight new litterbooms in rivers across the metro and employed 12 local river wardens to maintain them. These simple yet effective barriers intercept litter before it can flow downstream into the ocean.

As part of its project plan, the non-profit has also expanded its operations to support a circular economy. They take plastic pollution in rivers, sort it, and convert it into raw material for the production of useful items that can be reused or sold. At their Innovation Hub, recyclable plastic is transformed into commodities and everyday household items. The proceeds are reinvested into initiatives to keep waterways clean and sustain local reclaimers.



Got river clearing in the bag: The City-funded Litterboom Project bags the litter intercepted by their litterbooms in a number of Cape Town's rivers every day, as shown here along the Black river. The waste is sorted, and recyclable plastics are converted into valuable goods.

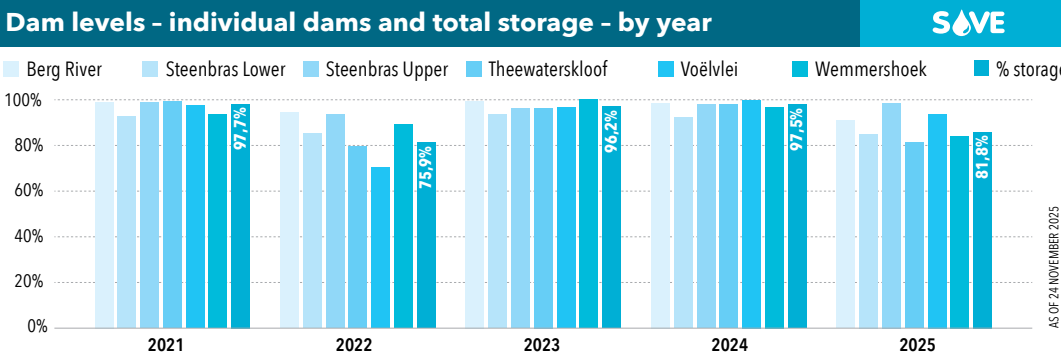
High dam levels, ongoing low power use

The dam levels for Cape Town are sitting at 81,8%. The City is aiming for an overall usage target of 650 million litres per day – which means Capetonians should still try to use less than 105 litres per person per day.

Protect our water resources by following water-wise guidelines. Residents and businesses are reminded that the permanent regulations contained in the City's Water By-law still apply across Cape Town, regardless of the restriction level.

Municipal water may be used in gardens only before 09:00 or after 18:00, but never to hose down paved areas.

- Visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater or www.capetown.gov.za/waterregulations to access the regulations.



Millions invested in safety at public facilities

The more than 8 000 properties overseen by Community Services and Health are often exposed to social evils such as illegal dumping, theft and vandalism, as well as the impact of violent crime in communities. This affects operations, as it forces the closure of City facilities for the safety of staff and patrons. This is why the City invests hundreds of millions of rands each year in on-site security services and

security hardening measures.

In 2024/25, the City spent R25 million on fencing repairs and maintenance, and nearly R10 million on new fencing, access control gates, alarm systems, roller shutter doors and bulletproof windows at certain clinics. A similar amount has been budgeted for this financial year, along with R389 million in the operational budget for day-to-day security services.



Not on the fence about security: The City makes substantial provision in the budget each year to secure its public facilities, including community centres, libraries and clinics.

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KORTLIKS

Agt strande onder Stadsbestuur het vir die somerseisoen weer gesogte blouvlagstatus ontvang. Dit is Bikinistrand, Kampsbaai, Clifton 4de, Vishoek, Llandudno, Melkbosstrand, Muizenberg en Silwerstroomstrand.

Die Stad het in November burgerlike eerbewyse aan 'n uitsonderlike groep mense oorhandig, en boonop burgemeestersmedaljes aan nie minder nie as 18 individue en organisasies verleen. Die Vryheid van die Stad, 'n eerbewys wat byna 'n dekade laas verleen is, sal in Januarie aan David Kramer en Taliep Petersen oorhandig word.

Met toelaagfinansiering van die Stad het die Litterboom Project agt nuwe vullisvangers in riviere deur die

hele stad geïnstalleer en 12 plaaslike rivierbewaarders aangestel om dit in stand te hou. Die vullisvangers onderskep rommel voordat dit in die see beland.

Die Stad se begroting maak ruim voorsiening vir veiligheid by openbare fasiliteite. In 2024/25 is R25 miljoen bestee om omheinings te herstel en in stand te hou, en bykans R10 miljoen aan ander veiligheidsinfrastruktuur. 'n Soortgelyke bedrag is vir dié boekjaar opgesig, tesame met R389 miljoen vir daaglikse sekuriteitsdienste.

KHAWUNDIBALISELE

Iilwandle ezisibhozo zeSixeko ziphinde zawongwa ngezanga leBlue Flag kwisithuba sika2025/26. Ezo lwandle yiBikini Beach, Camps Bay, Clifton 4th, Fish Hoek, Llandudno, Melkbosstrand, Muizenberg neSilwerstroomstrand.

Siza kunikeza amawonga karhulumente eSixeko kwiqela loluntu olugqwesileyo kananjalo sinikeze newonga leemedali zikaSodolophu kubantu abangekho ngaphantsi kwenani elingu18 nemibutho kananjalo. Elinye iwonga leSixeko elagqityelwa kudala ukunikezwa, elagqityelwa kwishumi leminyaka eyadlulayo eKapa, liya kunikezwa abantu ababini uDavid Karmer noTaliép Petersen.

Ngenxa yenkxasomali yeSixeko, iLitterboom Project ifakele izingxobo zenkunkuma ezisibhozo kwinqi-la yonke yaye yaqesha oonogada bemilambo yeengingqi abali12

ukuba bazimenteyine. Ezi zingxo-bo zifakelwe ukuthintela ukuba inkunkuma ingehli ngomlambo iye kungena elwandle.

ISixeko sibeka imali ethe hxaxhe kwibhajethi yaso ukulungiselela izibonelelo zaso zoluntu. Ngo2024/25, iSixeko sachitha izigidi zeerandi eziyi25 silungisa amacingo okubiyela saphinda sachitha malunga nezigidi ezili10 kwizibonelelo zokhuseleko kwiiklinikini ezithile. Kuphinde kwabekwa isixamali esibufana nesi kulo nyakamali kunye neR389 miliyoni yeenkonzo zokhuseleko zamihla yon-ke.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Help us catch criminals who demand protection money for your projects.

Phone 24/7: 021 480 7700

Anonymous tip-offs. Rewards offered!

LET'S ACT
LET'S STAND TOGETHER

Atlantis drop-off hours adjusted

The summer hours at the Atlantis drop-off site have been adjusted. The facility now closes at 19:00, and not 20:00 as advertised. The earlier closing time has been determined based on usage patterns.

** For a full list of operating hours for all drop-off facilities, enter ‘Drop-off operating times’ in the search box on www.capetown.gov.za.*

Kudos to CPUT for exemplary work on waste

The City applauds the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) for leading the charge towards zero waste to landfill in the higher education sector. The university's September celebration of its Zero Waste Initiative showcased how institutions of higher learning can help create a sustainable future.

CPUT boasts separation-at-source systems, circular-economy practices, and strong sustainability leadership on campus. The initiative highlights the vital role universities play in driving meaningful change and smarter choices in society.

Call to action

However, ensuring that zero waste ends up on landfills requires broad collaboration. The City urges other universities and businesses across the metro to re-examine their procurement practices and prioritise products and services that are environmentally friendly. Every contract signed and every purchasing decision made is an opportunity to reduce waste and protect our planet.

Not coping with your account?

The City has made available more than R5,1 billion in rates and services assistance to qualifying residents. Indigent residents who have previously benefited are encouraged to reapply. Pensioners who have received assistance before will only need to reapply after the General Valuation in 2026. Council has also approved a R2,2 billion initiative that will enable qualifying beneficiaries to have their old City debt written off.

Find out more by phoning the call centre on 0860 103 089 or emailing:

- payment.arrangements@capetown.gov.za for debt write-off;
- rates.rebate@capetown.gov.za for rates rebates; or
- indigent.relief@capetown.gov.za for indigent assistance.

Table View beachfront upgrade coming along nicely

Enhanced surrounds and amenities on track and making steady progress

The Table View beachfront is already showing off some of its newly upgraded elements. The project is expected to be completed by November 2026, although most of the civil-related construction, which causes the largest disruption, should be done by mid-year.

The stabilised dunes serve as a natural barrier against wave action, preventing sand from blowing inland. The City continues to monitor and manage the dunes to ensure that they remain effectively stabilised. This includes ongoing maintenance of wind nets and vegetation until they are in a balanced state.

The new walkway and reconfigured parking bays improve beach access. To compensate for parking spaces lost to the walkway, parking capacity is being expanded at Bokkombaai, while a new parking area is being built at Visagie Street, and additional bays are planned along Beach Road. These new parking facilities will also offer elevated views of the beach and Table Mountain, allowing visitors to enjoy the scenery from their vehicles.



Way better walkway: The upgrade at Table View beachfront includes a supersized walkway, some 4 m wide and 2 km long.

Aside from construction on the walkway and parking areas, current work also includes timber fencing, access ways and stormwater outlets.

Members of the public are reminded to keep dogs on a lead, adhere to signage on-site, and access the beach via designated access pathways only.

Your roadworks roundup

Roadworks in **Atlantis** in October affected Bloembosch and John Dreyer streets, between Neil Hare Road and the R304. Work involved resurfacing and the reinstatement of road markings.

Also in October, a portion of Voortrekker Road in Salt River was refaced. The work started on the Salt River bridge opposite the Salt River station, and ended at the Beach Road intersection with Voortrekker Road. Both the eastbound and westbound carriageways were resurfaced.

In the **Kraaifontein** area, resurfacing took place along Voortrekker Road between Fairfield Road and Van Riebeeck Street, along Botfontein Road between Voortrekker and Maroela roads, and along Van Riebeeck Street between Voortrekker Road and Frans Conradie Drive. Sidewalks along these roads were repaired and resurfaced, and the stormwater infrastructure on the west side of Van Riebeeck Street was also upgraded to eliminate regular flooding.

Roadworks along Marine Drive (inbound) in the **Paarden Eiland** area are planned to continue up until January 2026. Work will include resurfacing, patching and overlaying sections of the roadway, replacement of damaged kerbs, channels and catchpits, and the raising of manholes. The stormwater infrastructure will also receive attention to improve drainage

efficiency. Temporary lane closures may be in place at times to allow teams to carry out certain aspects of the work.

The construction of pedestrian footways in **Parklands, Brooklyn** and **Montague Gardens** will continue until March 2026. In Brooklyn, work will happen along a portion of Koeberg Road, between William Masson Road and Lavis Crescent. In Parklands, the affected stretch is along Dorchester Drive, and in Montague Gardens, the focus will be Montague Drive.

The implementation of a range of traffic-calming measures and new footway construction in **Milnerton, Melkbosstrand, Parklands, Table View** and **Atlantis** will carry on until April 2026. Speed humps will be installed along Oxalis Street (Milnerton), Drommedaris Street (Melkbosstrand), Deptford Crescent and Beacon Road (Parklands), Shetland and Pinto roads, Plover Street, Hutchison Avenue and Palomino Road (Table View) and Antelope and Addison avenues, Bentos Street, Adriatic Avenue, Bengal Street, Bon Aventura Avenue, Dahlia and Cosmos streets, Keria Avenue, Starling Road and Patrys Street (Atlantis). Atlantis will get new footways along Patrys, Bottle Brush, Lisboa, Matheran, Middelburg and Tsitsa streets. Raised intersections are coming at Mimosa Street and Ixia Road (Milnerton) and at Humewood Drive and Torquay Close (Parklands).



Improved interchange on the way: The upgrade to the Joe Slovo public transport interchange (PTI) in Milnerton (circled in blue above) is in full swing and should be completed by February 2026. Taxi operations have temporarily relocated to the corner of Freedom and Democracy ways. Work includes the surfacing of the current unsurfaced area, improvements to a section of the existing road leading to the PTI, and the construction of sidewalks and sewer and stormwater systems (including kerbs, channels, manholes and catchpits). New road signage and road markings will also be installed.

Team-up increases shelter beds

The City and The Haven Night Shelter have partnered to increase shelter bed availability and help more people off the streets in various parts of the metro.

The recently completed 120-bed expansion to The Haven Retreat has more than doubled capacity from 104 to 224 beds, to which the City contributed R12,7 million. The partnership between the City and the shelter will also see hundreds more beds being added to The Haven's facilities in Kensington and Wynberg. Additionally, The Haven District Six is

set to expand thanks to grant funding from Province.

The City's own Safe Spaces currently offer over 900 beds in central Cape Town, Bellville and Durbanville. The Safe Space model includes dignified shelter, ablutions, two meals per day, access to an on-site social worker, personal development planning and various social services.

Annually, the City helps around 3 500 individuals with shelter placement in either Safe Spaces or partner NGO facilities.

KORTLIKS

Die opknapping van die Table View-kusfront sal na verwagting teen November 2026 klaar wees, hoewel die meeste van die siviele konstruksie reeds teen die middel van die jaar afgehandel behoort te wees. Van die nuwe elemente is reeds te sien.

Die somerure van die Atlantis-vullisaflaaifasiliteit is aangepas. Dit sluit nou 19:00, en nie 20:00 nie.

Die Stad wens die Kaapse Skiereiland Universiteit vir Tegnologie geluk met hulle baanbrekerswerk om al hoe minder afval vullisterrein toe te stuur. Hulle is 'n voorbeeld vir die res van die hoërsonderwyssektor.

Meer as R5,1 miljard se bystand met eiendomsbelasting en diensgeld is beskikbaar vir kwalifiserende inwoners. Diegene wat voorheen bygestaan is, moet weer aansoek doen.

Die opknapping van die Joe Slovo-openbarevervoerwisselaar in Milnerton behoort

teen Februarie 2026 klaar te wees.

Padwerk is in Bloembosch- en John Dreyerstraat in Atlantis uitgevoer. In Soutrivier is die blad van sekere bane in Voortrekkerweg vernuwe. Bladvernuwing en sypaadjieherstel is ook in Voortrekkerweg in Kraaifontein gedoen. Padwerk in Marinerylaan in die omgewing van Paardeneiland sal nog tot Januarie 2026 voortduur. Die konstruksie van voetpaie in Parklands, Brooklyn en Montague Gardens sal tot in Maart 2026 duur. Die implementering van verkeersmatiging en nuwe voetpaie in Milnerton, Melkbosstrand, Parklands, Table View en Atlantis behoort teen April 2026 klaar te wees.

Die Stad en The Haven-nagskuiling werk saam om meer beddens in skuilings te voorsien. Die aanbouing by The Haven Retreat het die fasiliteit se bedkapasiteit verdubbel, en die Stad het die werk help finansier.

KHAWUNDIBALISELE

Ulwandle lwaseTable View lumphuculiwe lwafakelwa izinto ezintsha. Le projekthi kulindeleke ukuba igqitywe ngeyeNkanga (Novemba) 2026. Ubuninzi bomsebenzi wolwakhiwo buya kwenziwa bugqitywe phakathi enyakeni.

Iiyure zexesha lasehlotyeni zinyenyisiwe kwindawo yokulahla inkunkuma yaseAtlantis. Ixesha lokuvala ngoku ngu19:00, asingo20:00.

ISixeko siqhwebela iCape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) ngokukhokela iphulo lokuba kungabikho nkunkuma eya kugcwalisa amaziko emfundo ephakamileyo.

ISixeko silungise iR5,1 bhiliyoni yoncedo kwiireyithi neenkonzos eya kunceda abahlali abaselungelweni lokulufumana olu ncedo. Abo babekhe balufumana olu ncedo, ngaphambili bangaphinde bafake izicelo.

Uphuculo lwerenki yezothutho kawonkewonke yaseJoe Slovo eMilnerton lufanele ukuba lugqitywe kweyoMdumba (Februwari) 2026.

Ukulungiswa kweendlela eAtlantis kuchaphazele izitrato iBloembosch neJohn Dreyer. Iziporo eziseVoortrekker Road

eSalt River ziye zalungiswa. Kuye kwalungiswa iVoortrekker Road eKraaifontein kwaze kwalungiswa neendledlana zokuhamba uluntu. Kuyaqhutyekwa nolungiso lweendlela ehamba eMarine Drive kummandla wasePaarden Eiland de ibe yinyanga yoMqungu (Janyuwari) 2026. Ukwenziwa kweendlela zokuhamba uluntu eParklands, Brooklyn naseMontague Gardens kuza kuqhubeka de ibe yinyanga yoKwindla (Matshi) 2026. Amanyathelo okuhlisa izantya zezithuthi nokwenza iindledlana zokuhamba uluntu ezintsha aza kuqhubeka eMilnerton, Melkbosstrand, Parklands, Table View naseAtlantis ide ibe nguTshaziimpuzi (Epreli) 2026.

ISixeko neThe Haven Night Shelter zakhe ubuhlakani ukuze kongezwe iibhedi kwikhaya labo bafumana ikhusi kweli ziko. Kongezwe iibhedi eziyi120 eThe Haven Retreat zasuka kwinqanaba eliyi104 ukuya kwiibhedi eziyi224.

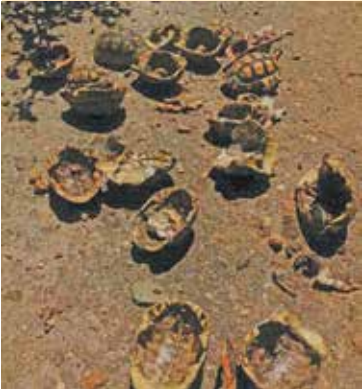
Tortoise poaching in reserve shocks

In early November, staff from Table Bay nature reserve discovered the empty shells of 19 angulate tortoises along footpaths leading to the reserve's environmental education centre. The tortoises appear to have been shucked and harvested, possibly for meat or traditional use.

This horrific poaching incident has been reported to the local police for further investigation. It is not only a serious case of animal cruelty, but is also in violation of both the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act and the City's own environmental protection by-laws. The angulate tortoise is a protected species in South Africa.

It is suspected that two men had entered the reserve under the pretence of wanting to fish, having paid for this activity. Photographic evidence as well as video footage of the suspects' vehicle has been submitted to the local police, CapeNature and the SPCA.

See something, say something
While staff conduct regular patrols at all City nature reserves, we also call on visitors to report any suspicious activity or behaviour.



Chilling discovery: Only empty shells were left after poachers killed 19 angulate tortoises at the Table View nature reserve in November.

Dumpers still trashing our town

Illegal waste tipping a hazard to nature and health

Illegal dumping continues to put Cape Town's environment and public health at risk. In 2024/25, a total of 106 vehicles used for dumping were impounded in line with the City's by-laws, including 25 trucks along Malibongwe Drive in Dunoon as well as Old Faure Road in Mfuleni.

Dumped items commonly include builder's rubble and general waste. Many unsuspecting residents also rely on scrap collectors to dispose of garden refuse and builder's rubble, not knowing that the waste is often dumped illegally, frequently in the very same area.

The fine for illegal dumping is R2 500, and the fee to get an impounded vehicle released is R8 700. The release fee for a second impoundment is R11 700, and R17 400 for a third offence.

** Report illegal dumping in progress to the Public Emergency Communication Centre on 021 480 7700. Tips can be submitted to the City's 24-hour tip-off line on 0800 110 077 (rewards may apply).*



Caught in the act: The City calls on residents to help it clamp down on those who brazenly carry on dumping waste illegally on empty sites across the metro.



Dose of excellence: City Health's pharmacy network has implemented Elula – a digital dispensing and stock management programme. For patients, it means shorter waiting times, while staff benefit from improved workflows and stock control, and real-time access to data. The team of 37 pharmacists and 77 post-basic pharmacist assistants dispensed R230 million's worth of medication from more than 70 dispensaries in 2024/25.

Fisantekraal to get recycling facility

Fisantekraal is one of the few remaining areas in Cape Town with no municipal recycling drop-off within a 7 km range. This is about to change, with a new facility to be constructed in Dullah Omar Street.

The design is being finalised and the facility should be ready for use in the 2027/28 financial year. Finetunes to the design include the relocation of the site's main entrance to Boy Briers Drive in response to residents' concerns about potential traffic disturbance in Dullah Omar. Additional adjustments are also being made to address visual and aesthetic considerations.

On completion, the drop-off will receive recyclable materials such as paper, plastics, glass and metals, as well as garage (mixed) waste, e-waste and builder's rubble. Progress updates will be shared with the community as the project advances.



Waiting for the drop-off: In a few years, residents of Fisantekraal will also enjoy convenient access to a City drop-off for the easy disposal of their recyclable waste.

Paper bills a thing of the past

From 31 December 2025, the City will send only emailed accounts, with no more bills sent via the post. Please make the switch. Send your account number, contact number and email address to Revenue.Eservices@capetown.gov.za or by SMS to 31223. If you do not have email, the City will find another paperless way to assist. Please phone the call centre on 0860 103 089 or visit your nearest customer interaction centre.

PAPERLESS BILLING

REGISTER BEFORE
31 DEC 2025



KORTLIKS

Personeel van Tafelbaai-natuurreservaat het in November op 'n skokkende stropingsvoorval afgekom toe hulle op die leë doppe van 19 bontskilpaaie ontdek het. Die diere is oënskynlik uitgedop en geoes, heel moontlik vir vleis of tradisionele gebruik. Die voorval is vir verdere ondersoek by die plaaslike polisie aangemeld.

Onwettige vullisstorting hou 'n voortdurende gevaar vir Kaapstad se omgewing en openbare gesondheid in. Die Stad het in 2024/25 beslag gelê op altesaam 106 voertuie wat by vullisstorting betrokke was.

Die Stad se apteeknetwerk het 'n digitale resepteer- en voorraadbestuursprogram genaamd Elula geïmplementeer. Vir pasiënte beteken die stelsel korter wagtye; personeel vind baat by beter werkvloei en voorraadbeheer,

en intydse toegang tot data.

Fisantekraal is een van die laaste oorblywende gebiede in Kaapstad sonder 'n munisipale aflaafasiliteit vir herwinbare afval binne 'n omtrek van 7 km. 'n Nuwe fasiliteit sal in Dullah Omarstraat opgerig word en behoort in die boekjaar 2027/28 gereed te wees.

Die Stad sal vanaf 31 Desember 2025 alle munisipale rekeninge slegs per e-pos stuur, en glad nie meer deur gewone pos nie. Maak seker jy skakel oor na e-posrekeninge. Stuur jou rekeningnommer, kontaknommer en e-posadres na Revenue.Eservices@capetown.gov.za, of SMS dit na 31223.

KHAWUNDIBALISELE

Kwinyanga yeNkanga, abasebenzi bethala lendalo laseTable Bay bothuswe ngumbono ombi kakhulu wokubiwa kwamalungu omzimba esilwanyana; babone amaqokobhe angenanto ali19 amafudo Kubonakala ngathi axotyuliwe kwaze kwakhutshwa amalungu angaphakathi ukuze kufunyanwe inyama okanye aye kusetyenziselwa izinto zesintu. Oku kuchaziwe kumapolisa engingqi ukuze kuphandwe ngakumbi.

Ukulahlwa kwenkunkuma ngokungekho mthethweni kuyaqhubeka nokubeka emngciphekweni impilo yabantu nezokusingqongileyo eKapa. Ngo2024/25, izithuthi ezili106 ezasetyenziswa ukulahla inkunkuma zaye zabanjwa kulandelwa imithetho kamasipala yeSixeko.

Iqela elithungelanayo leekhemesti zecandelo lezeMpilo leSixeko limisele inkqubo ebizwa iElula – eyinkqubo esebenzisa idijithali ukuhambisa nokulawulwa isitokhwe. Kwizigulane, oku kuxela

ukuba abasayi kulinda ixesha elide ukanti kubasebenzi, oku kuza kubanceda kumsebenzi wabo ukuba uphucuke bakwazi nokulawula isitokhwe i nokufikelela kwidatha echanekileyo.

iFisantekraal yenye yemimandla embalwa eshiyekeleyo eKapa engenandawo kaMasipala esetyenziselwa ukurisayiklisha ekumgama oyi7 km. Kuza kwakhiwa iziko elitsha eDullah Omar Street yaye kufanele ukuba libe selilungele ukusebenza kunyakamali ka2027/28.

Ukusukela ngowe31 kweyoMnga (Disemba) 2025, iSixeko siya kuthumela kuphela iikhawunti ngeimeyili, akusayi kuphinda kuthunyelwa iibhili ngeposi. Nceda ke uzilungiselele. Thumela inombolo yakho yeakhawunti, inombolo yohagamshekwano nedilesi yeimeyili ku-Revenue.Eservices@capetown.gov.za okanye uyithumele ngeSMS ku31223.

CITY OF CAPE TOWN AND AREA NORTH CONTACT DETAILS

Accounts and general enquiries
Tel 0860 103 089 (option 1)
Fax..... 0860 103 090
Email..... accounts@capetown.gov.za
..... contact.us@capetown.gov.za

Alcohol and drug helpline (24/7)
Tel 0800 HELP 4 U (0800 435 748)

Anti-corruption and fraud hotline
Tel (anonymous, toll-free) . . 0800 323 130

Cable theft
All-hours tel 0800 222 771

Public transport (toll-free)
Information centre..... 0800 656 463
Dial-a-Ride 0800 600 895

Drought and water
www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater

Report and track faults
www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests

e-Services
www.capetown.gov.za/eServices

Contact the City
www.capetown.gov.za/contacts

Budget
www.capetown.gov.za/budget

Tariffs
www.capetown.gov.za/tariffs

Policies and by-laws
www.capetown.gov.za/policies

Council matters
www.capetown.gov.za/council

AREA NORTH CONTACT DETAILS
Tel 021 444 6174
Cape Town Civic Centre, 12 Hertzog Boulevard, Cape Town

Subcouncil 1
Tel 021 444 6037
Cnr Grosvenor and Hermes avenues, Saxonsea, Atlantis

Subcouncil 2
Tel 021 444 1130
Municipal offices, Brighton Road, Kraaifontein

Subcouncil 3
Tel 021 444 4862
Municipal offices, Royal Ascot, Bridle Way, Milnerton

Subcouncil 7
Tel 021 400 2344
Municipal offices, Oxford Street, Durbanville

Subcouncil 16
Tel 021 487 2079
11th floor, 44 Wale Street, Cape Town



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Beaconhill residents use art to bring positive energy



- Above are two of the youngsters turning the park walls into works of art, and on the left are the walls before the intervention

MONIQUE HANSEN

On Saturday, 29 November 2025, residents from Beacon Hill organised a youth mural art project to bring beauty to the area and to unite neighbours in showcasing the young talent.

Together with the 7349 Art Crew, several dozen families created a mural that brings hope, creativity

and a sense of belonging. The mural covers the walls of Beacon Hill Park and acknowledges the fight against substance abuse, guns, gangs, domestic violence and public violence. Priscilla Blankenberg, the lead organiser of the project, says she has lived in Beacon Hill for 20 years, walked these streets, raised her child in this area and witnessed both the beauty and the challenges the youth

face every day. 'For a long time, I have carried this desire to do something meaningful for young people. I wish I had started sooner, but I know that everything happens for a reason and in God's perfect timing. The mural project is not just about painting on a wall; it is a declaration that Beacon Hill is filled with talent and God-given purpose.' She encourages community members to get involved

in creating platforms for young people to express themselves, grow and be uplifted. "It might not feel like it now, but with the right support, opportunities and involvement in projects like this, you are one step closer to reaching beyond your environment," she said.



Last weekend, Atlantis City celebrated its 21st birthday in style, treating shoppers to festivities and giveaways.

Shoppers flocked to the centre on Friday, 5 December, where three lucky shoppers each took part in a

thrilling dash to fill their trolleys after spending R250 or more to qualify. In the photo are the three winners. FLTR is Jacobus Petersen, Charlene Afrika, (Pick n Pay store manager), Jacobus van Rooyen, Belinda Eland (mall marketing manager) and Katy van Rensburg.

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071 513 5452

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31 Dec `25 to 3 Jan `26

We wish you good health, peace & prosperity in 2026

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021 572 7547

Pensioners receive the ultimate gift

PETER LATEGAN

The initiative formed part of the AERF's *Cash for Clarity* campaign and was delivered in partnership with Rotary Melkbosstrand, Jansen Vorster Optometrists, the Radiance Foundation, and a team of dedicated volunteers. The programme focused on pensioners and vulnerable residents who have long struggled to access essential eye care.

Every patient received high-quality, compassionate surgical care at no cost. AERF also extended its appreciation to EyePharma for donating lenses used during the procedures. Dr Frederik Jansen from Jansen Vorster Optometrist explained that cataracts form when the eye's lens becomes cloudy due to ageing, UV exposure, medical conditions like diabetes, certain medicines, smoking, or injury. "Removing the cataract and replacing it with a clear artificial lens restores sharp vision, improves safety and independence, and greatly enhances overall quality of life," he said.

Jansen said a typical cataract operation can cost well over R60 000. The medical team, consisting of Drs Steven, Steffen, and Sonnekus,



received special praise for their commitment and expertise. Rotary Atlantis commended everyone involved, saying the collaboration demonstrated true community spirit. 'Your compassion, dedication, and commitment to restoring vision and dignity to our senior citizens have made an immeasurable impact on our community,' said the organisation. Danny Pietersen (above), chairperson of Rotary Atlantis and one of the 21 recipients, said they are eternally grateful. "What a fantastic opportunity for pensioners who have been on a waiting list for years and, for the first time in years, can now see. A special thanks to Dr Jansen for this great initiative," said Pietersen.

- A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS -

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

It is that time of the year when people are looking forward to a well-deserved rest, spending time with family. For some it can be a dreadful time of worrying about Christmas clothes, food and presents that hold no real value. This is the season where we should really reflect on God's gift to man, Jesus Christ. What He did then, He wants to do for you as well.

Jesus will keep it together
This true story happened more than 2 000 years ago in a small town called Bethlehem. Matthew 1:18-19 tells us that an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to leave Mary, because he wanted to leave her secretly as she was carrying the baby Jesus, conceived through the Holy Spirit. What God is saying to you and me in this time is this that with Jesus in your relationships and everyday life, He will keep things together in a chaotic and broken world." Proverbs 3:6 professes: "Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will straighten your path." He is the God of the impossible, and what is impossible for man is possible with God if you only believe (Mark 9:23).

Do not be afraid
Many have become fearful of the future when we look at crime, the

economy and general lawlessness in our society. But God instructs us not to fear, just as He told Joseph. We get fearful over many things, but faith as small as a mustard seed can turn every fearful situation into a testimony. Most of us probably remember sleeping in the dark as a child and how scary that was. But as soon as a light was turned on, that feeling of fear went away. Jesus is that light in this dark world. John 8:12: Jesus says: "I am the light of this world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." So don't fear!

You are not alone
Matthew 1:23 says the angel told Joseph that he must name the child Immanuel, translated to mean "God with us". I'm sure any Liverpool soccer fan can relate with the motto "you'll never walk alone". Fans come and go, but Jesus will never leave you. In this festive season I wish you all good health, much-needed rest, provision according to your needs and heavenly protection. Stay safe and know that Jesus loves you.

**BROTHER WG BLAKE
EVANGELIST: GRACE OF GOD
FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

Christmas a month earlier for Berzelia Primary

STAFF REPORTER



Acting principal Phildene Mitchell (left) and teacher Alma Herdien (right), handing over a certificate of appreciation to Dr Priya Parbhoo.

PHOTO: KEITH LINDEROTH

On 24 November, Christmas came a whole month earlier for 50 learners of Berzelia Primary in Protea Park, Atlantis. In the spirit of the festive season, Dr Priya Parbhoo, an adult cardiologist at Netcare Blaauwberg Hospital, and her medical secretary, Gail Maddocks, decided to host a "Santa's Gift Bag" and Christmas lunch as a way of giving back to the community.

The aim was simple: to bring joy and hope to children living in poverty. For this year's outreach, Berzelia Primary School in Atlantis was selected, and one of the teachers, Alma Herdien, identified 50 learners whose festive season was about to become a little brighter. Generous support from Bata Shoes and Falke provided school shoes and socks for every child, while the secretaries of Netcare Blaauwberg Hospital

and Intercare Blaauwberg lovingly prepared personalised Christmas gift bags. Three branches of Pick n Pay also contributed generously to the Christmas lunch, which included hotdogs, cupcakes, doughnuts and cooldrinks. 'Our message to the Atlantis community is that there is hope, and people truly care. Each year, the initiative will select a different school, orphanage or old-age home to support. Organisations are welcome to reach out if they wish to be considered for future projects,' said Maddocks.

Learners get special Christmas treat



Each year, Atlantis Secondary School hosts its Annual Christmas Party for Feeding Scheme Learners.

Ashley Saville, who is part of the National School Nutrition Programme and helped organise the day, says their main goal is for all learners to experience joy and happiness through sharing a

delicious Christmas meal. "This year, a total of 300 learners were part of the feeding scheme, but only 160 were able to attend. They were also surprised with a small gift to show just how special they are," she said. Saville added that they always welcome new sponsors and partners to assist in reaching more and more learners in need.





Janine se wil en hart om mense te help

COURTNEY ARENDSE

Vir Janine Passenz, gebore en getoë in Mamre, was dit nog altyd 'n droom om deel te wees van 'n vroue-organisasie. Haar ma het haar jare gelede gereeld na politieke byeenkomste geneem, en dis hierdie ervarings wat 'n nuuskierigheid oor gemeenskapswerk in haar wakker gemaak het, en die saadjie van aktivisme geplant is.

Vandag is sy die trotse stigter van *Survivors Haven Foundation*, 'n organisasie in Mamre wat slagoffers van geslagsgebaseerde geweld ondersteun en gemeenskappe in die Wes-Kaap bemagtig deur bewustheids- en voorkomingsprogramme. Passenz het self verkrachting oorleef. Sy vertel: "Destyds het ek nie geweet waar om hulp te kry of met wie om te praat nie. Toe ek uiteindelik my saak wou aanmeld, was niemand bereid om my verklaring af te neem nie. Ek het moed opgegee."

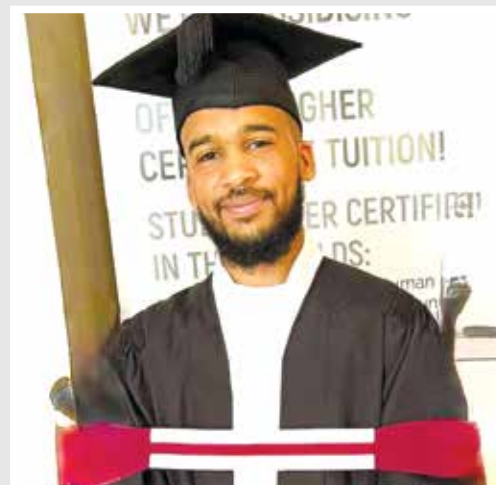
Uit hierdie pyn het sy besluit dat sy nie wou hê ander moes deur dieselfde frustrerende proses gaan nie. Suid-Afrika ervaar tans skokkende vlakke van geslagsgebaseerde geweld en volgens Passenz is emosionele ondersteuning vir slagoffers noodsaaklik. Daarsonder verloor baie vroue die moed om hul sake verder te voer. Vir haar is aktivisme nie net 'n beroep nie, maar 'n lewenslange roeping wat nie kwalifikasies vereis nie, net 'n wil en 'n hart om mense te help. Haar dryfkrag is haar geloof. "Hierdie werk kan nie sonder 'n verhouding met God gedoen word nie. Die gebede van mense dra jou. Een van haar grootste

rolmodelle is Winnie Mandela, wie se moed en vasberadenheid haar altyd inspireer. As enkelouer moes Passenz leer om balans te handhaaf: "Ek moet grense stel en tyd vir my kind maak," verduidelik sy.

Met *Survivors Haven* het sy reeds groot mylpale bereik. Dit sluit in internasionale erkenning deur haar samewerking met die Universiteit van Nottingham. Sy het ook die voorreg gehad om die alombekende Amal Clooney van die *Clooney Foundation for Justice* te ontmoet. Sy het ook merkwaardige vroue soos Pastoor Terri Hannie, leier van *Women of Substance*, leer ken. Verder bied sy gereeld haar eie program op die plaaslike radio-stasie aan, waar slagoffers die moed kry om oor mishandeling te praat.

Hoewel Passenz se passie in Mamre begin het, het haar drome beslis geen grense nie. Sy wil graag slagoffers landwyd bystaan en talle programme aanbied oral waar daar 'n behoefte bestaan. Aan jong vroue het sy 'n kragtige boodskap: "Moet nooit jou droom prysgee nie. Ons het nie almal dieselfde gawes nie, maar jy moet weet wie jy is en doen waarvoor jy bestem is. Vroue moet finansiële onafhanklik wees sodat ons sterk op ons eie voete kan staan. Jou storie kan die sleutel wees tot iemand anders se genesing. Laat God jou pyn omskep in krag."

CALVIN LATEGAN from Pella recently graduated from Boston City Campus with a Bachelor of Accounting. "My future plans involve gaining more experience in the industry and becoming a professional accountant," he said.



Braitex recently hosted its annual Miss & Mr Braitex Pageant, turning the day into a celebration of talent, confidence and company spirit. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as colleagues cheered on the contestants. The company is proud to congratulate our 2025 title holders: Mr Braitex, Leshaylin Cloete; Miss Braitex, Heavenay Scholtz; Miss Personality, Henrietta Koeries; 1st Princess, Beverly Hannies; 2nd Princess, Lynn Brown; and Best Dressed, Nicolette Williams. Alexis Scott, Tania Jacobs and Suzanne Johannes who acted as judges, helped make the event truly special.



Robinhill Special School hosted their senior's school leavers ball on Thursday, 20 November. Here are some of the learners showing off their outfits.

Atlantis will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026!

As part of this initiative, a dedicated website, www.celebrateatlantis.co.za, will host regular updates and information about the initiative. A small task team are being established to guide and coordinate ideas, events, and proposals under this banner. This task team will assist to ensure the activities are inclusive and community-driven, while avoiding duplication.

Celebrate
ATLANTIS

THOSE INTERESTED TO GET INVOLVED are requested to email the following to info@celebrateatlantis.co.za: A short introduction, a summary of your skill set & your mobile number

www.celebrateatlantis.co.za

Sevens tournament ends in nail-biter, as Watsonia beats Hamlets B

BENJAMIN SMITH



- Above the top two teams, Hamlets B and Watsonia, are battling it out, and to the left is the winning team holding aloft the coveted trophy.

On 29 November, OK Foods in Mamre hosted their annual Sevens rugby tournament. This year's tournament consisted of 20 teams from various locations competing for the prestigious trophy.

Thousands of spectators gathered together to enjoy a full day of fast-paced rugby action, food from local vendors, as well as performances by JCM dance crew and a cheerleading squad. The tournament, now in its fourth year, is a celebration of rugby and community pride. "Rugby is rooted in the identity of our town. The Hamlets pride runs deep in our community so this event is an opportunity for people to see the

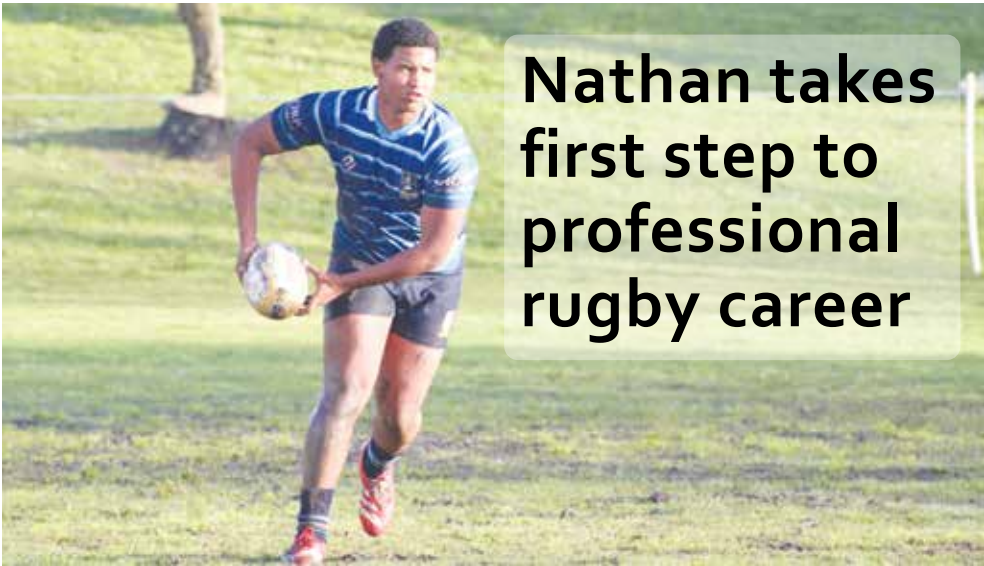
talent that we have here, for people to experience the community's love for rugby and for the players to showcase their talent," says Stephanie Kraak, one of the event organisers.

The tournament kicked off with a tightly contested group stage followed by a knockout round of 16. The quarter-finals saw Connect NTK defeat Hamiltons Rugby Club 19-24. Watsonia defeated Young Hearts RFC 17-7, while Mamre A came up short in the quarter-finals following a 10-12 loss against St George's RFC. The final match in the quarter-final stage saw Hamlets B defeat Wesbank Rugby Club 21-5. The first semi-final match was a clash

between Watsonia and Connect NTK. Watsonia came out on top, beating Connect NTK 19-5, with tries scored by Nathan Cyster, Bradley Robertson and Lynsay Hendricks. Cardorel Mafouna managed to pull one back for Connect NTK, but all efforts were in vain. The second semi-final was a tightly contested battle between Hamlets B and St George's RFC. Tries scored by Claudio Van Wyk, Henry Davids and Isaac Davids helped Hamlets B secure their place in the finals following a 19-10 victory over St George's.

The highlight of the day was the final match, a hard-fought battle between two rugby giants. Watsonia was crowned champions

of this year's Mamre OK Sevens after defeating Hamlets B 17-12 in the championship final. Tries in the match were scored by Chelsen Jacobs and Liam Okkers for Hamlets, and Bradley Robertson, Lehenco Abrahams and Nathan Cyster for Watsonia. "This win means a lot for the club. We had a bit of a slow start to the tournament but with discipline and hard work we managed to push through and win the tournament," says Watsonia Club Chairman Abdul Cloete, following the team's victory. Watsonia's Bradley Robertson was named Player of the Tournament.



Nathan takes first step to professional rugby career

- PHOTO: BRANDON LAKAY

MONIQUE HANSEN

One of Atlantis' rising stars, Nathan Jacobs (16), recently earned the opportunity to travel to Dubai for a rugby tour with the Beal Western Cape Leopards, a youth rugby tour organised for junior teams from the Western Cape to provide these talented young players with an international or inter-provincial rugby touring experience.

On 16 November 2025, Jacobs and his family organised a jazz afternoon to raise funds for his trip. He left for

Dubai on Sunday, 7 December, for a week. He is currently playing rugby for his school, Melkbosstrand High, and hopes that this will help him get into professional rugby. "I am excited to be travelling abroad and playing rugby internationally. My dream has always been to play professionally, and this is just one step towards that dream," he said just before he left.