

(Green) power to the people!



Last week, project partners, community leaders and representatives gathered in Witsand for the launch of the community solar-lighting initiative, which has seen 300 wall-mounted solar lights installed in the area. This initiative will assist with the general safety of many dark streets in the community.



STORY ON PAGE 4

THOUSANDS OF SIGNATURES COLLECTED

Public pressure pays off: Plans announced to save Thusong Centre

ARTICLE ON PAGE 3

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Fight against MyCiTi fare increase 'not over'

PETER LATEGAN

More than a month after the City of Cape Town implemented MyCiTi fare increases, organisers of the campaign opposing the hike say commuters remain under severe financial pressure despite the City's insistence that the increase was unavoidable.

The fare increases, which came into effect on 1 July, saw the cost of the Monthly Pass rise from R1,000 to R1,500. Anastasia Davids, local councillor, activist, and one of the organisers behind the online petition opposing the increase, said the impact on commuters has been significant. "Commuters are frustrated. The increases are putting even more pressure on people who already struggle with the cost of living," she said. Davids said the petition continues to gain support from commuters concerned about the affordability of public transport. "Signatures are continuing to come in."

Davids said campaign organisers have yet to receive a satisfactory response from the City addressing the concerns raised by commuters. Despite the implementation of the new fares, organisers said the campaign would continue. "We will continue engaging with commuters

and the City and will keep pushing for affordable public transport. Public transport is a necessity, not a luxury. Stop making it harder for ordinary people to get to work, school and essential services," Davids appealed.

The City's Mayco Member for Urban Mobility, Councillor Rob Quintas, confirmed that the City had formally acknowledged the petition and recognised that the increase places additional financial pressure on commuters. He said the fare increase was triggered after diesel prices between March and May this year exceeded the threshold set out in the City's approved tariff framework, requiring the implementation of Fare Level 7 from 1 July. According to Quintas, failing to implement the increase would have resulted in a budget shortfall and threatened the financial sustainability of the MyCiTi service. He added that the tariff framework allows fares to be reduced in future should diesel prices fall below the prescribed thresholds. Meanwhile, diesel prices increased



by approximately R1,30 per litre "It is still too early to determine whether the increase has affected passenger numbers or Monthly Pass sales, and meaningful trends will only become clear over the coming months," said Quintas.

Addressing complaints about leaking buses, faulty doors, overcrowding and poor customer service, Quintas said the City's bus refurbishment programme is continuing. Last Friday morning, yet another MyCiTi bus broke down on the side of the road at the R27 intersection (photo above), leaving dozens of commuters stranded while travelling to work and school. "Enough is enough. Golden Arrow

must come back. We are paying too much for bus services and receiving poor service," said one commuter on Facebook. Another agreed: "The people of Atlantis don't deserve this kind of service."



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HAVE YOUR SAY! DRAFT BURIAL, CREMATION AND CEMETERIES MANAGEMENT POLICY

The City of Cape Town invites members of the public, stakeholders and interested parties to comment on the draft Burial, Cremation and Cemeteries Management Policy. The policy has been developed to establish a modern, comprehensive and integrated framework for the management of burial, cremation and cemetery services within the municipal area. It seeks to address current and emerging challenges by strengthening governance, supporting the sustainable management of cemetery infrastructure, enabling innovative and environmentally responsible burial and cremation practices, and promoting dignified, accessible and culturally sensitive burial and cremation services. The policy also incorporates and replaces the City's existing Burial or Cremation of Destitute Persons Policy (2015) by including a dedicated City-assisted Burials and Cremations section within the policy framework.

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 17 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) that the Council invites the public and interested persons or groups to submit comments, recommendations or representations on the draft Burial, Cremation and Cemeteries Management Policy for a period of 63 days.

The 63-day comment period commences on 3 August 2026 and concludes on 5 October 2026.

Comments, input and recommendations may be submitted in any of the following ways:
Comments input and recommendations in respect of the proposed policy can be submitted via email to Public.Participation@capetown.gov.za.

Special assistance will be provided to people who cannot read or write, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups who are unable to submit written comments, to ensure that their inputs or comments are recorded and submitted to the municipality. For this purpose, members of the above- mentioned groups may contact the City of Cape Town's Public Participation Unit:
Andre Louw at 021 400 9809 or Andre.Louw@capetown.gov.za.

Enquiries relating to the Draft Burial, Cremation and Cemeteries Management Policy can be directed to the Community Services and Health Directorate on the City of Cape Town website.

Kindly note that the proposed draft policy will be available for viewing on the City of Cape Town website: <http://www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay>.

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CITY MANAGER
CTA170/2026



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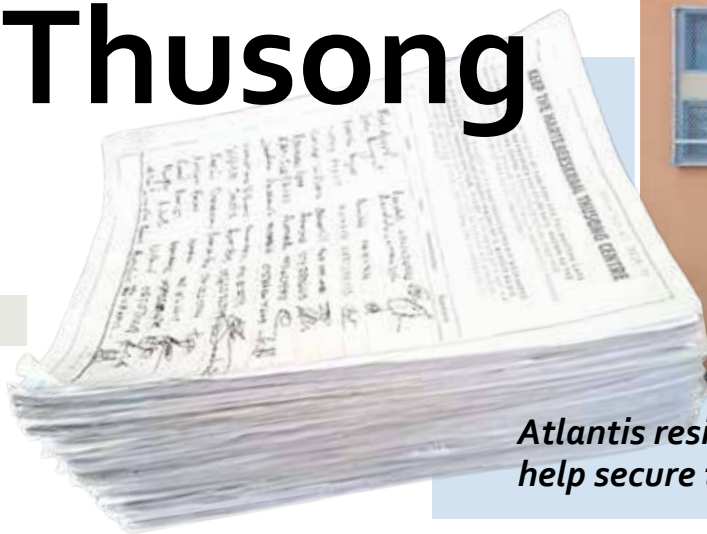
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Plans announced to save Thusong Centre

PETER LATEGAN



Atlantis residents collected approximately 15,000 signatures to help secure the future of the Hartebeeskraal Thusong Centre

Sustained community pressure appear to have helped secure a new future for the Hartebeeskraal Thusong Centre. Last month, the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Government announced an in-principle agreement that will see the facility remain a public asset instead of being disposed of.

The proposed agreement follows months of uncertainty over the future of the centre, which sparked widespread public opposition earlier this year. A community-led campaign called The People's Process saw almost 15,000 residents sign a petition calling on the City to halt the proposed disposal of the property and protect the centre's role as a vital community hub.

Under the proposed agreement, the City intends donating the property to the Western Cape Government, which will assume ownership and management of the facility. The Department of Social Development (DSD) will operate from the centre, while the Western Cape Department

of Infrastructure will oversee refurbishment of the building before DSD takes occupation. Announcing the agreement, the City said the decision would safeguard access to essential government services while creating opportunities to expand social development programmes in Atlantis. "Rather than disposing of the property for commercial purposes, we have chosen a solution that safeguards its public purpose and provides certainty for the community well into the future," said Alderman James Vos, Mayco Member for Economic Growth.

Western Cape Minister of Social Development, Jaco Londt, said the proposal was a direct response to concerns raised by residents about access to government services. Residents highlighted the need for improved access to government services. This in-principle agreement is a direct response to that call," Londt said. For Allison Adams, a local resident instrumental in success of the campaign, the announcement represents an important step, although she believes the community's work is

not yet complete. "The community played a significant role in this outcome. When the proposed disposal first became public, many residents were completely unaware of what was happening. Within three weeks, residents collected approximately 15,000 petition signatures. Volunteers walked door-to-door because they understood the importance of protecting a public asset that serves Atlantis." She believes the campaign fundamentally changed the debate around the future of the property.

Adams welcomed government's commitment that the property will remain a public asset, but cautioned that ownership alone will not determine its success. "What matters is whether the facility is properly maintained, effectively managed and delivers the services the community actually needs," she said. She also raised several outstanding concerns, including whether the announcement applies to the entire property or only the building, what will happen to the rezoning process previously initiated by the City, and why the community

never received a formal response to its memorandum before the latest announcement. She also maintains that meaningful public participation should still take place, despite government stating that it is not legally required for the transfer of property between organs of state.

Vos said if Council approves the proposed transfer during its August meeting, the administrative transfer process is expected to be completed by January 2027. Once finalised, ownership, management and operational responsibility for the centre will rest with the Western Cape Government. Londt added that the transfer would enable greater operational capacity and improved service delivery. Once refurbishment has been completed, DSD will establish its Atlantis local office from the centre. Due to space constraints, the department expects to occupy most of the building together with SASSA," he added

Hospital board hopes to strengthen community ties

KRYSTINA PRETORIUS

On Thursday 9 July 2026, the Wesfleur Hospital Board hosted a community engagement session at the Wesfleur Library to introduce its board members to the community.

Joy Davids, chairperson of the board, outlined the members' roles and responsibilities, which include representing the community's interests, promoting accountability, and serving as a liaison between the public and the hospital. Residents had the chance to voice concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback on hospital services and community-related healthcare issues. Representatives from Wesfleur Hospital, Mamre Clinic, Protea Park Clinic, Saxon Sea Clinic, the Wellness Hub, EMS and AMS, the Violence Prevention



Unit (VPU), and the social facilitator of the PLC also provided an overview of the healthcare and support services available to the community. Among the issues raised were hospital safety and security, improving communication between residents and the hospital, strengthening outreach initiatives and community collaborations,

as well as concerns about waiting times, mental healthcare services, and hospital hygiene. Residents were encouraged to continue participating, attend future meetings, and raise issues and recommendations with the hospital board.

Kabinet gee groen lig vir 10-jaar- lisensie

Motoriste sal in die toekoms minder gereeld hul bestuurslisensies hoef te hernu nadat die Kabinet die verlenging van die geldigheidstydperk vir ligte motorvoertuie en motorfietse van vyf na 10 jaar goedgekeur het. Die voorgestelde verandering sal op lisensiekodes A, A1, B en EB van toepassing wees sodra die nodige wetswysigings afgehandel is.

Bestuurslisensies vir swaar motorvoertuie en Professionele Bestuurspermitte (PrDP's) sal steeds vir vyf jaar geldig bly. Die regering beklemtoon dat die nuwe reëling nog nie in werking is nie en dat motoriste hul lisensies intussen steeds volgens die huidige vyfjaar-stelsel moet hernu.

Share your Atlantis 50th events and initiatives

Atlantis celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Organisations, businesses, schools, residents, and others who wish to share information about planned events and activities are invited to join our Atlantis 50th Anniversary Events Calendar, which the rest of 2026. By bringing these events together, we aim to:

- improve coordination between organisers;
- avoid scheduling conflicts;
- promote events more effectively across the community; and
- celebrate initiatives that contribute to a lasting legacy for Atlantis.

Those wishing to be included in the calendar, please email info@celebrateatlantis.co.za.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THE 2026/27 SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP)

Notice is hereby given that in terms of section 53(3)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), Act 56 of 2003, the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) for the 2026/27 financial year as well as the directorate executive summaries and scorecards will be available on the City's website from Monday 3 August 2026 at www.capetown.gov.za/idp.

In terms of the MFMA, the SDBIPs are to be made public by Monday 10 August 2026 up until Monday 7 September 2026.

Copies will be made available for perusal at the main municipal administrative buildings, all subcouncil offices (listed below) and all municipal libraries on weekdays between 08:30 and 16:30.

The following table contains a list of venues where the documents will be available for perusal:

SUBCOUNCIL	ADDRESS
Subcouncil 1	Municipal Offices, cnr Grosvenor and Hermes Avenue, Saxonsea, Atlantis
Subcouncil 2	Municipal Offices, Brighton Road, Kraaifontein
Subcouncil 3	Milnerton Municipal Building, First Floor, Royal Ascot, Bridle Way, Milnerton
Subcouncil 4	Parow Municipal Building, 1st Floor, cnr Voortrekker Road and Tallent Street, Parow
Subcouncil 5	Kuilsrivier Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Cnr Carinus Street and Van Riebeeck Road, Kuilsrivier
Subcouncil 6	Bellville Municipal Offices, Voortrekker Road, Bellville
Subcouncil 7	Durbanville Municipal Complex, cnr Oxford and Queen Streets, Durbanville
Subcouncil 8	Municipal Offices, cnr Fagan Street and Main Road, Strand
Subcouncil 9	Site B, cnr Bonga and Sulani Drive, Khayelitsha Shopping Centre, Khayelitsha
Subcouncil 10	Khayelitsha Training Centre, cnr Lwandle Road and Phendula Crescent, Khayelitsha
Subcouncil 11	Dulcie September Minor Hall, Athlone Civic Centre, cnr Klipfontein Road and Protea Street, Athlone
Subcouncil 12	Lentegeur Administrative Building, cnr Melkbos and Merrydale Roads, Lentegeur
Subcouncil 13	Fezeka Building, cnr Steve Biko Drive and Lansdowne Road, Gugulethu
Subcouncil 14	Kuilsrivier Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Cnr Carinus Street and Van Riebeeck Road, Kuilsriver
Subcouncil 15	Bonteheuwel Municipal Building, cnr Jakkalsvlei Avenue and Kiaat Road, Bonteheuwel
Subcouncil 16	11th Floor, 44 Wale Street, Cape Town
Subcouncil 17	Lentegeur Administrative Building, cnr Merrydale and Melkbos Roads, Lentegeur
Subcouncil 18	Cnr Buck Road and 6th Avenue, Lotusrivier
Subcouncil 19	Municipal Offices, Central Circle, off Recreation Road, Fish Hoek
Subcouncil 20	Alphen Centre, Constantia Main Road, Constantia
All libraries:	Click on www.capetown.gov.za/libraries
Cape Town:	Concourse, Civic Centre, Hertzog Boulevard, Cape Town
South Peninsula:	Municipal Offices, cnr Main and Victoria Roads, Plumstead

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CITY MANAGER
CTA175/2026



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Solar project will make meaningful difference

- Workers installing of one 300 solar lights in Witsand, which will go a long way to address the lack of public lighting in the area.



More than 150 residents, community leaders, funders and project partners gathered at Azikhwelwa Hall last Wednesday, 5 August 2026. The occasion? To mark the official launch of 300 wall-mounted solar lights that have now been installed and are fully operational.

The completed first phase has provided lighting along critical travel routes, crime hotspots and pathways identified through a collaborative mapping and planning process with the community. For years, most parts of Witsand had no public lighting despite some areas being electrified. Dark streets and narrow pathways affected residents travelling to and from work, reaching public transport and accessing shared toilets after dark. During the project's early engagements, community members spoke about attacks taking place under the cover of darkness and described public lighting as essential to safety, dignity and everyday movement.

The Witsand community first approached People's Environmental Planning (PEP) in August 2024 after identifying lighting as the area's most urgent development priority. Over the following two years, community leaders and representatives worked with PEP and LightUp to map priority areas, identify suitable households for wall-mounted lights and secure household consent. A team from the community was trained and participated in the installation, helping to build local skills and ownership alongside the physical infrastructure.

“For many years, the lack of public lighting forced people in Witsand to live with fear after dark. Residents returning from work struggled to move safely through the passages, while accessing communal toilets at night was particularly dangerous. These 300 solar lights are already making a

meaningful difference. People can now walk with greater confidence, the illuminated areas feel safer and the lights are helping community safety structures and SAPS protect residents more effectively. This project has restored hope and dignity to our community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who heard our concerns and helped make this possible,” said Babalo Mbulwana of the Witsand Community Board of Leaders. “This launch marks the completion of two years of work with the Witsand community,” said Noah Schermbrucker, Co-founder of LightUp and Director at People's Environmental Planning. “The community did not simply receive a pre-designed solution. Residents helped identify where lighting was most urgently needed, and a local team was trained to install the lights. That process builds skills, ownership and a stronger basis for maintaining and extending the project over time.”

The first phase was funded by Global Business Solutions and LEDVANCE, which supplied the 300 solar lights. Project partners People's Environmental Planning, LightUp, SANCO Witsand and the Provincial Violence Prevention Unit worked with community structures to plan and implement the installation. “Corporate social investment has the greatest value when it responds to a priority identified by the community and leaves behind something practical and sustainable,” said Jonathan Goldberg, Chairman of Global Business Solutions. “These 300 lights are installed, operational and already creating greater visibility along routes that residents use every day.”

Witsand comprises approximately 12,000 household structures, and many routes and sections still require lighting. The project partners are therefore calling on local businesses, funders and other organisations to support additional lights, ongoing maintenance, monitoring and the wider rollout of the programme.

Next generation ready to lead despite challenges

KRYSTINA PRETORIUS



- From left to right are Megan Manchess, Aminah Souma, Amylee Kearns and Faith Van Rooy

HAVE YOUR SAY! DRAFT SHORT-TERM LETTING (STL) BY-LAW

The City of Cape Town invites members of the public and interested parties to comment on the draft Short-Term Letting By-Law between 5 August 2026 and 5 October 2026.

The proposed By-law aims to improve compliance with the City's existing Rates Policy, which requires that commercial property rates be paid for premises used for commercial short-term letting. Commercial rates do not apply to people part-time letting some of their residence to supplement income, or to long-term rentals, as these properties are considered the primary residence of the tenant.

- To distinguish between properties used for short-term letting, the City recently amended its Rates Policy, following a public participation process. Specifically:**
- Properties used for short-term letting for 50% or less of their annual room-night capacity may continue to be categorised as residential properties, provided it meets the City's Rates Policy requirements.
 - Properties used for short-term letting for more than 50% of their annual room-night capacity will be regarded as commercial accommodation and will be rated accordingly.

- In summary, the By-law will require:**
- Booking platforms, owners and operators to provide information for registration and to share data on listing availability and occupancy to support the City's property rating categorisation process;
 - All properties listed on any booking platform to be registered with the City;
 - That a City-issued STL registration number be displayed on all listings advertised on a booking platform; and
 - Booking platforms, owners and operators to remove any listing that does not display a City-issued STL registration number.

- The proposed By-Law will apply to:**
- owners and operators of properties listed on a booking platform; and
 - booking platforms that advertise short-term letting accommodation.

The City intends that any changes to property rating categories will take place from 1 July 2027.

In terms of section 17 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), the public and interested parties may submit comments to the municipality in respect of the draft By-Law from 5 August 2026 to 5 October 2026.

- Comments, recommendations and input may be submitted by:**
- Email: STL@capetown.gov.za
 - Written submission: Deliver to any of the City's subcouncil offices or City libraries (in the comment box)
 - Website: www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay and www.capetown.gov.za/collaborate

The draft STL By-Law together with its executive summary will be available for viewing on the City's website: www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay. In addition, the By-Law's executive summary will be available in the three official Western Cape languages at subcouncil offices during the public participation period.

The City's Public Participation Unit will assist people living with disabilities who are unable to submit written comments to have their objections recorded and submitted to the City.

For queries in this regard, contact the City on 0800 220 441 or STL@capetown.gov.za.

Contact the City on STL@capetown.gov.za/ if you require more information on how to submit comments.

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CTA171/2026



Making progress possible. Together.

Young women continue to face challenges because of their gender, yet a new generation is proving that those challenges do not have to define their future. During Women's Month, four young women from Atlantis shared their dreams, the women who inspire them, and the changes they hope to see in their communities.

Although they are at different stages of their lives, they share one powerful message: believe in yourself, pursue your goals, and never let fear or circumstances limit your potential. For Megan Manchess, who is studying management at West Coast College, aside from creating a future for herself, she wants to repay her parents for their support. "After I'm done studying, I would love to work not just for myself but for my parents also, because they have helped me through everything," says Megan. When faced with challenges, Megan clings to her faith and considers her mother to be her biggest source of motivation. She shares some advice with young girls like herself: "Start by believing in yourself just a little bit, even if you're scared."

Aminah Souma, a third-year student at Stellenbosch University studying towards a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies, hopes to introduce drama and theatre to local communities so that more youth can discover their passion. "My dream is to bring theatre and drama to Coloured communities, so that more youngsters can be inspired and find their passion," says Aminah. She credits her mother for shaping her independence and ambition. She believes there are still issues that women must deal with, such as not being acknowledged for their professional achievements. "Regardless of what anyone says, go for it. Wondering won't get you anywhere," adds Aminah.

Amylee Kearns is a Grade 12 learner and Representative Council of Learners (RCL) chairperson at Robinvale High School. She aspires to become a paediatrician and improve access to healthcare for local families. She believes young women deal with social pressure about who they should be, financial obstacles, and self-doubt. "I would tell young girls not to let fear or doubt define them. Believe in yourself, work hard, and don't compare your journey to anyone else," says Amylee. She also honoured her mom, who has instilled determination, strength, and resilience.

Faith Van Rooy, a fellow Grade 12 learner at Robinvale High School, plans to pursue higher education and have a fulfilling job where she can positively impact society. Faith says her mother taught her the importance of strength, sacrifice, and perseverance. "Young women may experience the pressure of having to live up to the expectations of others or be perfect. I believe every young woman has unique gifts, and when she embraces who God created her to be, she can achieve far more than she imagined," adds Faith.

West Coast College receives major green tech boost

COMMENT ON THE UPDATED CITY OF CAPE TOWN CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY 2026

The City's Technical Partnerships Unit (TPU) is updating the Contributions to the City of Cape Town Policy (Policy Number 41636) first drafted in 2015.

About the draft policy

The City of Cape Town is reviewing and updating the Contributions Policy, originally adopted in 2015. The revised policy provides a clear framework for how the City receives, assesses and manages contributions from external parties. These include technical assistance, grants and donations, while clarifying activities that fall outside the scope of the Policy, such as sponsorships and piloting initiatives. The updated Policy aligns with current legislation, governance requirements and City procedures.

The review has been undertaken because the existing Policy no longer reflects the complexity of contributions received by the City. Over the past decade, new processes have been introduced, creating inconsistencies between the Policy and supporting procedures. The updated Policy simplifies processes, improves transparency, strengthens governance and makes it easier for City officials, residents, businesses and development partners to understand how contributions should be managed.

Why is the Policy being updated?

- The Policy is being updated to:
1. Align with current legislation, governance requirements and City procedures.
 2. Reflect the new SOPs and guidelines that have been developed since the drafting of the original policy.
 3. Remove inconsistencies and outdated provisions contained in the 2015 policy.
 4. Improve transparency, efficiency, risk management and ease of doing business.
 5. Provide clearer guidance for City officials and external stakeholders.

Expected outcomes

The revised policy will provide a simpler, clearer and more consistent framework for managing contributions to the City. It is expected to reduce administrative delays, strengthen compliance, minimise legal and financial risks, and improve collaboration between the City and organisations wishing to support municipal programmes and projects.

The revised Policy clearly explains:

- what constitutes a contribution;
- which activities fall outside the Policy;
- how contributions may be requested, assessed and accepted;
- how contributions must align with City priorities and legislation; and
- where further guidance can be found through supporting procedures and guidelines.

Have your say

Internal consultation with various City line functions helped shape and improve this draft policy. Now it is your turn to have your say.

Access the document here: <http://www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay> and at public libraries.
Comment period: 11 August 2026- 11 September 2026
Submit your comments by email to: Technical.Partnerships@capetown.gov.za or online:
<http://www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay>.
For general inquiries, please email: Technical.Partnerships@capetown.gov.za

Special assistance will be given to people who cannot read or write, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups who are unable to submit written comments to have their inputs or comments recorded and submitted to the municipality. Contact Anthea Bendie at 021 400 1450/ Anthea.Bendie@capetown.gov.za or Technical.Partnerships@capetown.gov.za.

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CTA156/2026



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West Coast College recently received a state-of-the-art CO₂ maritime refrigerated container (Green Reefer), marking a significant milestone in the College's commitment to sustainable skills development and the advancement of green technologies within South Africa's maritime refrigeration sector.

The official handover ceremony, held last month, was the culmination of a five-day intensive training programme delivered at the college's Atlantis Campus, in collaboration with the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Academy (ACRA). Thirteen participants completed specialised training on the cutting-edge CO₂ reefer unit, equipping them with practical skills in environmentally sustainable refrigeration technologies and the safe handling of natural refrigerants. The CO₂ Green Reefer has been made possible through an implementing partnership between the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

The initiative supports the development of critical technical skills while promoting the adoption of natural refrigerants that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Speaking at the handover ceremony, the representative of the German Embassy said: "The CO₂ training reefer is an important milestone in our shared efforts to advance sustainable refrigeration and strengthen technical skills in South Africa."

The facility will serve as a permanent training asset at West Coast College, enabling current and future students, artisans and industry professionals to gain hands-on experience with modern refrigeration systems that align with global environmental standards and South Africa's Just Energy Transition objectives. West Coast College Principal, Lungisa Mbulawa, welcomed the partnership and the opportunities it creates for both students and industry: "Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for West Coast College. Together with our partners, we will continue to build a skilled workforce that supports economic growth, environmental sustainability and the successful implementation of South Africa's Just Energy Transition."

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West Coast TVET College

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Creative spirit on display at Atlantis art exhibition



PETER LATEGAN

The creative spirit of Atlantis was on full display when Shane's Media House hosted the Atlantis Art Exhibition on 10 July 2026, bringing together artists, photographers and creatives from Atlantis, Mamre, Pella and Witsand in a celebration of local heritage, culture and community.

The immersive gallery experience showcased the area's rich history and diverse stories through visual art and photography, while providing a platform for local talent to share their work with the wider community. According to Shane Hoop, owner of Shane's Media House, the exhibition was inspired by a desire to change the narrative surrounding Atlantis. "Too often people only know Atlantis for gangsterism. I wanted to start something that reminds people of our heritage and allows them to see Atlantis differently. Small businesses are celebrating Atlantis in ways that many others are not, and I wanted this event to highlight that."

Hoop said the exhibition was designed to create a space where community members could connect with the history, identity and future of Atlantis through creative expression. The evening featured live music performances, refreshments and a symbolic time capsule initiative aimed at preserving the spirit of the community for future generations. For Hoop, one of the biggest highlights was the overwhelming support from both the community and local businesses. "Seeing strangers and friends supporting my journey, together with the many small businesses that believed in my vision, was incredibly rewarding,"



he said. He said planning for the exhibition began at the end of 2023, with preparations continuing until funding became available in early 2026, allowing the project to become a reality.

Although some larger stakeholders were ultimately unable to provide the support that had been promised, Hoop said local businesses, volunteers and community members stepped forward to ensure the event's success. "One of the biggest challenges was finding enough people willing to support a vision focused on celebrating and growing our township. In the end, the community showed what can be achieved when people work together. I am honoured and grateful to every small business, volunteer and guest who made this exhibition a reality. Thank you for believing in this vision."

Among those who supported the initiative were the Atlantis Creative Hub and SEDA as artwork sponsors. Décor was provided by Atlantis Creative Hub, C'est La Via and Evolve Events, while Mzansi Spirits sponsored the beverages. Sound was supplied by Bad Bone Production, with event planning coordinated by Glam Hub. Joy Funzions provided the 360-degree fun booth, while Impact News provided media coverage and other support. Photographs of Josh Daniels, Kaydin Davids, Jason Baart, Wayne Daniels, Shane Hoop and Sikwena James were on display, while sketch artists Chandre Stevens and Chad Page showcased their talents during the event.



- Pictured far left at the event was local councilor Moosa Raise, flanked by Krystina Pretorius (left) and Nicole Greef (right), both representing Impact News. On the left is Shane Hoop, who initiated the event and above are some of dozens of guests in attendance.

Rotary partnership restores sight to 20 Atlantis residents



Twenty Atlantis residents have been given a new lease on life after receiving free cataract surgery through a collaborative initiative involving Rotary Atlantis, the Rotary Club of Melkbos, the Atlantic Eye Foundation and Eerste River Hospital.

Rotary Atlantis chairperson, Danny Pietersen (far right on photo), said the club is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the initiative. "The Atlantis community would like to express its sincere gratitude following the successful cataract surgeries performed on 20 of our residents," said Pietersen. He said Rotary Atlantis coordinated and oversaw the transport and administrative arrangements, ensuring that patients could travel safely to and from Eerste River Hospital for their procedures. Pietersen also thanked Frederik Jansen and the Rotary Club of Melkbos for conducting the post-operative examinations at the Jansen Vorster Practice in Melkbosstrand, ensuring that patients received the necessary follow-up care after their operations. He also expressed appreciation to the Atlantic Eye

Foundation, Dr David Steven, Head of the Ophthalmology Department at Eerste River Hospital, including hospital staff, volunteers and donors whose generosity, time and expertise made the project possible. He had a special word of thanks for Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town, for donating blankets to each of the patients, providing additional comfort during their recovery. "Your collective commitment and compassion have made a meaningful difference in the lives of these 20 Atlantis residents," Pietersen added.

Jansen (kneeling in front) said restoring a person's sight goes far beyond improving their vision. "It gives them back their human dignity and independence. Instead of relying on full-time care, many patients are once again able to care for themselves and contribute to their households." He explained that as funding and medical resources become available, further cataract surgery programmes will be arranged. He also praised his dedicated staff for supporting the initiative without any additional compensation.



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Local ringball players shine at national championship

BENJAMIN SMITH

Last month, from 12 to 18 July, the Cape Town Ringball district team, led by local ringball coach Johan van der Berg, competed at the National Ringball Championships in Pretoria.

Out of the five senior teams representing the Cape Town district at the national championships, the best-performing team was the Masters Ladies, who claimed gold after defeating Ekurhuleni North 54-44 in the final. In addition to their outstanding performances at the championships, the Cape Town Ringball District was also named District of the Year 2026 by the Ringball Association of South Africa. "This achievement means a lot because it reflects all the effort I have put in throughout the year. It shows that the sacrifices have not been in vain and that I have been able to make a positive impact on the players," says van der Berg.

He is now turning his focus to the Junior National Ringball Championships, scheduled to take place from 26 September to 3 October in Limpopo. All of the approximately 50 junior players are from Atlantis. Although ringball

is not as widely known as rugby, cricket or netball, it has a proud history in South Africa stretching back more than 100 years. The fast-paced sport, which evolved from basketball and shares similarities with netball, is played competitively in all nine provinces. Teams of nine players work together across three sections of the court, passing the ball between teammates before attempting to score through a raised ring at either end. The sport has also gained an international footprint, with organised competitions in countries including Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, India and Mauritius.

Van der Berg also acknowledged the continuous support of the community, especially through fundraising efforts. "I would like to thank the community for supporting us through our fundraisers. Ringball is an amateur sport, so we do not receive much external funding. Most of our financial support comes from the community," says van der Berg.



- Above is coach Johan van der Berg with some of the players who represented the Cape Town Ringball District at the National Ringball Championships in Pretoria. Left is van der Berg holding District of the Year 2026 trophy awarded to the district.

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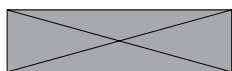
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