

Tackling the grime in our open spaces



Part of Ward 88's team that worked hard to fill hundreds of bags of rubbish at the Spruit clean up on the last Saturday in September. They were joined by councillor Nick Lorimer and young volunteers from De La Salle.

IN the last six weeks, Ward 88's clean-up team has filled 1000 bags of rubbish in and around Emmarentia and neighbouring suburbs' open spaces.

Managed by Ward Committee member, Felicity Gratz-Lawlor, and funded by kind donations from residents of Ward 88, she tries to give the team of about 20 workers work for at least three days a week. But at R100 a day with lunch, it's not nearly enough for them to live and send money home.

The team were all once employed: one worked as a journalist, others as gardeners, in construction, home maintenance, painting, waiters/barmen, and one as an HIV/Aids counsellor and come from almost all of SA's provinces. Some were retrenched others' con-

tracts expired leaving them unemployed.

You can support the team of workers that clean the suburb's open spaces by:

♦ **Donating money: pay to FR Lawyer Capitec; Branch 470010; Account: 1540254168 Reference - add your suburb).** All funds received will be audited.

♦ **Donating clothes/shoes or anything else. Contact Felicity on 082 568 1783 / runners@icon.co.za**

"We need a handup, not a handout," says Alfred Lephoi, one of the clean-up team who was once a journalist, until he was retrenched.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to estate agent, Seeff, for donating luminous yellow bibs to ERA for use in clean-up campaigns and other similar campaigns. They have been much in evidence (see pic above) on Ward 88's clean-up team and continue to be used on an ongoing basis.

Snippets

• An appeal to all dogwalkers

City Parks and ERA is appealing to all dog-owners to pick up after their dogs. It is an offence not to pick up after your dog and it is also unhygienic and inconsiderate, especially to those who come to relax or picnic in the park. The current dog-walker arrangement where two men are employed to do this, is not adequate says City Parks.

• Separate recycling from your rubbish

With Jhb's landfill sites fast becoming full to capacity, Pikitup area manager, Melvin Jacobie, urges all Emmarentia residents to separate their recycling from their normal rubbish. One in three residents are currently recycling he says, "we need nine out of ten."

Emmarentia is one of the few suburbs where Pikitup picks up our separated bags of recycling. Other suburbs have to take it to recycling centres themselves. If you put out separate bags full of recycling, Pikitup will leave you a clean bag for the following week. Pikitup wants your paper, your tins/cans, bottles and plastic and so do the trolley pushers.

• UMEC new City Power meter readers

Phone City Power 011 493 0221 to check if the meter reader at your gate is legitimate.

If they come before the 15th of the month, they are not. Readings **take place from the 15th of the month onwards.**

ERA—here to help you

We've heard the complaints about the numerous events over the past few months. We're noting your ideas posted on whatsapp groups. If you have others please send to info@emmarentia.co.za. We will also be talking to neighbouring residents' associations to get their views.

Judging by comments on Emmarentia whatsapp groups, many residents are already experts in how to resolve suburban problems. We've tried to put all the contacts together in one table for you over the page. It's always best, if possible, to e-mail, or with City Power, to log online, so you have your reported problem in writing and you get a reference.

If nothing is done within 30 days then contact our ward councillor, Nick Lorimer.

Whatsapp 071 901 2164 or nicklorimer@outlook.com

Be sure to give him your reference

ERA on your case

We often hear murmurings, “what does ERA do anyway, why should we pay to join ERA, we already pay rates and taxes?” Read how we have been busy:

- Submitted (with councillor Lorimer) the **petition on improving the roads and pavements** signed by 526 residents. We also noted and appreciated the concerns of many residents on this petition and modified it to take many of these concerns into account.
- **Briefed an attorney** who will brief an advocate to voice ERA’s objections to the way in which the developer on the triangle of land below the Shell garage is trying to amend the suburb’s precinct plan.
- Is **piloting a whatsapp security group** that links directly with all the active security companies in the area. Crime incidents are reported on immediately and shared instantly across all the security companies.
- Continue to **attend monthly Community Policing Forum meetings** at Parkview police station
- **Made strong objections** to the increased compaction and densification proposed for some parts of our suburb in the **City’s proposed nodal review**.
- **Commented on the City’s Draft Land Use Management policy** (which regulates ‘working from home’ businesses, spaza shops, outbuildings etc) stressing the importance of approval from adjacent neighbours and the residents’ association for any addition/change to a property but welcoming the proposed easing of additional dwellings on a property. Contact info@emmarentia.co.za for a copy.
- **Joined with EDGE to submit an objection** to the proposed upgrades at Botanic Gardens on a number of grounds including that there was no meaningful consultation.
- **Attended numerous pre-event meetings for Marks Park and Botanic Gardens** to ensure that planned events respected Emmarentia residents’ rights and concerns. We have written a very strongly worded letter to Mayor Herman Mashaba, requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the abuse of the suburb’s green resources and its residents.

Councillor’s Corner—Nick Lorimer

Why re-integrate MOEs?

A few years ago the city of Johannesburg took the various departments such as power, roads etc, and formed them into separate companies—Municipal Owned Entities (MOEs).

Modelling them on what had been done in European countries, they were to be owned solely by the municipality, with service level agreements with the municipality and answerable to a board of directors. They were supposed to create a more efficient system.

Unfortunately, bad management practices, lack of coordination between MOEs and a lack of accountability meant that the MOEs ran inefficiently and unaccountably. The situation worsened with the new administration with boards often loyal to the old regime blocking and frustrating the new leaders’ directives.

The new government has embarked on a project to reintegrate these MOEs back into the city, abolishing their boards and placing them more directly under the control of the political leaders. The first stage of this project has been passed through council and is expected to be finished in 2019.



The new childrens' playground is up and jumping in the Botanic Gardens. Get there today.

Upcoming events Nov-Dec 2017

Nov	
25	Parklife Festival, Marks Park
Dec	
2	Linden Market, Jhb Bot Gardens
9	Breakout event, Jhb Bot Gardens
10	Texas, Jhb Bot Gardens

Who to call to solve those pesky problems

Problem	Who Responsible?	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree fallen down on road/park; tree needs trimming • Grass needs cutting in park • Sick/dead birds 		Call 0860 JOBURG 0860 562874 e-mail: jcp@jhbcityparks.com 011 712 6600 or 082 906 1515
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal dumping • Stolen wheelie bin (first report theft to Parkview Police) 		Call 011 375 5918 Call 0860JOBURG (562874)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaking water on road or pavement • Sewerage blockage – outside your property • Water meter leaking/ stolen 		e-mail: customer@jwater.co.za call 0116881699/ 0860JOBURG (562874) or SMS 0826532143
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage blockage – inside your property 	Your plumber	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy neighbours late at night • Motor vehicle accident • Vagrants • Any by law infringement • Illegal dumping • Abusive car guards 		080 TRAFFIC 080 872 3342 011 375 5911 011 758 9620
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power outage in your street • No street lights • Huge electricity/ rates bill 		Log problem on www.citypower.mobi 0860JOBURG (562874) Phone 0860JOBURG (562874) If not resolved within 30 days, refer to councillor Nick Lorimer, together with reference given by City Power to: 071 901 2164 or nicklorimer@outlook.com
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faded road markings • Pothole in road • Debris from accident • Oil slick on road • Faulty traffic lights 		E-mail: hotline@jra.org.za or if urgent Call 0860JOBURG (562874)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal land use/ development 	Tommy Mahlobogoane	Tommy@joburg.org.za