



## Fighting crime in our suburb—the app way

In response to a spike in crime in Emmarentia, ERA held a public security meeting on April 25 2018. In preparation for this meeting, ERA's security portfolio holder, Geraldine Connell, held several meetings with the developers of the Bull Horns app as well as Emmarentia resident, Kingsley Brown and CAP.

At the meeting it was announced that negotiations with CAP were in progress with a view to their participation in a free one-month trial of the app. However, efforts to get this operational have been delayed.

At the request of residents, ERA and CAP are running a comprehensive analysis across multiple products and will then report back to residents.

Once whichever app is chosen and is operational, it is envisaged that residents of Emmarentia and Greenside will use it to report suspicious activity in public spaces to CAP.

During the trial period, residents can try out the Bull Horns app. When the panic button on your smartphone is pressed, it automatically summonses the nearest vehicle of your security company and it disseminates crime alerts in a structured manner.

### Why CAP and not another security company?

ERA's relationship with CAP goes back to 2013 when the chairpersons of ERA and the Greenside Residents Association conducted a due diligence of several security companies and decided that CAP offered the BEST MODEL for securing the suburb.

CAP's model of doing business

- allows residents from each area that they service, to sit on an oversight committee and influence how the service can be improved
- ring-fences the income earned from each area and spends any surpluses on additional security for that area (e.g. the addition of an extra patrol vehicle following an increase in CAP membership over the past five years)

It is for these reasons that ERA endorses CAP. This endorsement is an approval of the business model and service levels of CAP. However, all residents have consumer rights which entitle them to choose their preferred security provider.

ERA is proactively engaging with CAP to try and bring innovative improvements for the safety of our residents.

ERA's newly-formed security subcommittee (ERASS) suggests that residents download the Bull Horns app (tap on this link: <http://onlink.to/g7tymz>).

Once the app is downloaded:

- Because no contract has yet been signed with any security vendor, do not select your security company from the drop-down menu in the field called "Emergency contacts"
- Instead, type in your personal security company's emergency number in the second row
- Add the cell phone numbers of other people that are closest to you in the fields below
- Should you need to put out a call for help (e.g. if you are being followed home) or report a suspicious person (e.g. an abusive car guard), "PRESS THE PANIC BUTTON" on your phone. The app will send sms messages with your GPS co-ordinates to your friends and family. It will also immediately call your security company.

For more info on the app check out ERA's website: <http://era.org.za/fight-crime-in-our-suburb-load-the-bull-horns-app/>

## City news from our new councillor, David Hensman

### COJ's 2018/19 Budget:

- The 2018/19 Operating Budget for the City is R51 billion and the Capital expenditure budget is R7.8 billion of which R3.1 billion is funded by Central and Provincial Government grants
- The City is proposing to re-develop 83 properties in the inner city to promote economic growth
- City Power has been allocated R20 million to repair existing public lighting and R120 million to install meters which do not require manual reading.
- Joburg Water has been allocated additional operating budget for pipe replacement which will reduce pipe bursts by 6000.
- Pikitup frontline staff will increase by 2800

- An additional 1500 JMPD recruits are currently in training
- City Parks budget for grass cutting etc. has been increased from R107 million to R207 million
- JRA has been allocated R30 million until 2020/21 for traffic calming measures in priority areas (e.g. around schools)

### Property Rates

Tariffs remain unchanged but will be linked to the new valuation roll property values.

- Basic rebate on all properties increased from R200 000 to R350 000
- Pensioner rebates monthly income level set at R9245 (with property value under R2.5 million)

- Pensioner rebate for 70+ persons R2.5 million (no income constraint)
- Forms must be submitted before the end of June.

(More details go to:

[www.joburg.org.za/services\\_/Pages/City%20Services/Rebates/Pensioner-rebates.aspx](http://www.joburg.org.za/services_/Pages/City%20Services/Rebates/Pensioner-rebates.aspx))

### Tariff increases for 2018/19

- Electricity average tariff increases - 7.17%
- Water and sanitation average tariff increase -13.2%
- Waste removal—6.8%

To contact David Hensman, send an e-mail to: [dhensman@yebo.co.za](mailto:dhensman@yebo.co.za)

## ERA wants to record Emmarentia's history

Did you know that Early Stone Age tools dating back 500 000 years ago have been found on Melville Koppies? The koppies also has more recent evidence of Tswana /Sotho people who lived on the koppies and smelted iron up until 150 years ago. (Go to [www.mk.org.za](http://www.mk.org.za) to learn more)

In 1887 the Geldenhuys brothers bought a portion of the farm, Braamfontein. The farm stretched from Market Street in the CBD, north to Rosebank and Victory Park, east to Oxford Road and west to the edge of Westdene. They hoped to find gold but were unsuccessful.

### But what do we know about Emmarentia's more recent history?

John Ayres was 76 years old and living in Westdene when he recalled some of his boyhood memories of living as a small boy on Geldenhuys's farm in Emmarentia in the 1920s and '30s. (NMT September 2002)

"Aeroplanes landed and took off at the intersection of Muirfield and Marico Roads," and he and his dog "loved to play in the pea fields" (Roosevelt Park) while watching the many vultures circle 'Aasvoelkop', now known as Northcliff.

Emmarentia was once a 'whites only' suburb with a synagogue that served the needs of a large Jewish community. Now the mosque is bigger than the synagogue, and the suburb is diverse.

We'd like to hear those long ago stories and the more recent ones that have changed the face of our suburb. If you'd like to share your stories and/or your photos or help us gather those stories, please contact us on [info@era.org.za](mailto:info@era.org.za), or write us a letter at PO Box 84582, Greenside, 2034.

## 'Let's Work' needs your support



Meet 37 year old Emmanuel, from Limpopo. He's been living on the streets for two years. If you can help by donating to Let's Work, he can work more

days, find a room to rent, out of the freezing cold. He's just one member of the team at Let's Work who labour extremely hard to keep our neighbourhood clean. But they can't continue without your support. Donate to: **LET'S WORK**, Capitec, A/C 1552551790 Branch code 470010 Ref # your suburb

A big thank you to Felicity Gratz-Lawlor, as well as the admins of all the Emmarentia whatsapp groups and the residents themselves who provide huge amounts of knowledge and support on Whatsapp groups in our suburb and make our job as ERA much, much easier.

## Preparing yourselves for upcoming events

It's almost that time of year again when Emmarentia residents are host to thousands of happy people who come and enjoy events in Marks Park or the Botanic Gardens. (see box on the right)

Often residents are inconvenienced by the visitors and many residents complain of disrespectful visitors.

As ERA we work hard to try and make sure that events run smoothly with as little disruption to residents as possible. We attend pre- and post-event meetings where SAPS, JMPD and the event organisers are present.

What helps us do our job is if we can get photos of any infringements of by-laws so that we can follow up. Post to your whatsapp group as soon as you can so that we have proof of what transpired and so can follow up.

### Residents' passes

You should have received a sticky residents' pass in your postbox with this newsletter. This is valid for all events in 2018/19. Please note that even if you have this residents pass, there may be some roads that are closed at particular times. Make sure you familiarise yourselves with road closures for each event.

If you need additional residents passes, collect from Emmarentia library—take your proof of residence.

## Issues ERA has raised with JMPD

- Drug dealing, alcohol consumption and abusive behaviour from car guards at the Greenhill shops as well as shebeen operating from public toilets outside Checkers
- Muggings and car theft at the Botanical Gardens
- The abusive windscreen washer at the corner of Judith and Barry Herzog
- Firing AK47s at a funeral in West Park Cemetery
- Displaced persons living along the spruit
- Speeding cars and insufficient traffic control at major intersections

## Upcoming events June-Oct

JULY	
22	702 Walk the Talk, starts and ends at Marks Park—many road closures in Emmarentia
29	Park Life, Marks Park
AUGUST	
5	Liefde by die Dam, Botanic Gardens
OCTOBER	
7	Spar Women's Race, Marks Park

## Your views needed

Over the last few months there have been a number of muggings and thefts and attempted thefts of cellphones in the dog part of the Botanical Gardens.

ERA has been engaging with City Parks as well as CAP and JMPD. City Parks says that safety in the park is JMPD's job, it can do nothing. **However, it is proposing that all entrance gates are locked between 6pm and 6am** to try and reduce these incidents.

Meanwhile ERA is continuing to discuss with various bodies other ways to decrease these incidents and make the park safer. One option we are investigating is to mount panic buttons on poles in the park linked to a security provider.

**We need to know whether you would be prepared to:**

- pay a monthly fee **OR**
- crowd fund for such a service

What do you think of changing the opening and closing times and panic buttons in the park. E-mail to [info@era.org.za](mailto:info@era.org.za)

## Your questions answered:

**How do I log onto to City Power to report a power outage with my cellphone?**

Type into your browser: [https://za4.forcelink.net/forcelink/customportal/cp\\_mdt/customerportal.html#](https://za4.forcelink.net/forcelink/customportal/cp_mdt/customerportal.html#)

Once you have a reference number, whatsapp it to Felicity Gratz-Lawlor on **082 568 1783**, Ward 88 Committee rep who will follow up for you.

**Who do I report a wildfire on Melville/Westdene Koppies/Delta etc.**  
Phone: **011 760 9143** or Phillip **071 220 3696** or Moses **082 344 2407**