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The Emmarentia Post

www.era.org.za

E-mail: info@era.org.za

The Official Publication of the Emmarentia Residents' Association

www.facebook.com/Emmarentia-Residents-Association-JHB

What to do about crime?

From mid-March to mid-April it has seemed to residents as if there has been a crime incident almost every day. House burglaries, muggings in the park, car jammings, abusive car guards. We've had it all and residents have used the whatsapp groups in the suburb to express their frustrations and fears and to suggest solutions

From 24 hour guards on the street, boom gates with restricted access, to CCTV cameras monitored 24 hours. There is no end to the suggestions that have filled the whatsapp waves.

And it's not to say that there is an easy solution. Some were sceptical of 24 hour guards pointing out that sometimes cameras show that guards have ignored suspicious goings on. Others pointed to the expense of 24 hour monitored cameras.

However, it was agreed that Geraldine Connell who holds the security portfolio

in ERA will call a community meeting where you can come and discuss different ideas. Watch your whatsapp group for meeting details.

Meanwhile, for some good news. Muggings in Emmarentia Park/Botanic Gardens seem to have been halted after proactive intervention by ERA, City Parks and CAP.

Nevertheless **beware these hotspots:**

- car jamming near the shops in Greenhill Road, Checkers (and near Linden and Greenside shops)
- Hustling of people trying to draw cash from the Standard Bank ATM between Industry Bakery and Huamin off Barry Hertzog
- Delivery vans often lie to your employees about deliveries. Your staff should confirm any delivery with you before allowing entry.

Let's fight all this together.

Jozi Trails pilot includes Emmarentia

The development and maintenance of recreational trails along the Braamfontein Spruit from Delta Park to Emmarentia is the first phase of not for profit company, Jozi Trails, long term plans.

Four public safety ambassadors sponsored by Security company, 24/7, will patrol the pilot area from 6am to 6pm on weekends.

Jozi Trails' eventual aim is for trails to stretch 37 kms from Albert's Farm at the southern end to the N1 in Fourways.

Geoff Lockwood, from Delta Environmental Centre, says that environmentally sensitive areas will be carefully managed.

More info: **Twitter: @JoziTrails | Info@jozitrails.co.za | Facebook: Jozi Trails**



Jozi Trails/City Parks busy working on the trail

By-election on April 25— What are your options?



OSCAR PLANGE— INDEPENDENT

2018 objectives:

- Fix the **problematic billing system**
- Campaign for residents against the city's new random and excessive property valuations.
- Compile a schedule of desperately needed infrastructure maintenance, and ensure funds budgeted are spent on this.
- Identify and action capital investment projects in Ward 88.
- Communicate with other Residents Associations and individuals regarding the specific needs of their areas and champion these causes at council and municipal level.

More info: **Contact Oscar:** 082 374 7253/ **e-mail:** oscar@safinfp.co.za

DAVID HENSMAN— DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

Objectives:

- **Service delivery:** Assist with logging of complaints and follow up with City officials to fast track services
- **Billing problems:** Escalate unresolved billing queries to senior officials and provide feedback on steps the City is taking to rectify
- **Communications:** Improve communication with the residents of Ward 88 with regular updates on service delivery issues and a monthly e-mailed newsletter
- **City Budget:** Fight to have Ward 88's needs heard in the City budgeting process.

More info: **Contact David:** 082 806 3446/ **e-mail:** dhensman@yebo.co.za

Check out ERA's new website: www.era.org.za

It is still very much work in progress. We would appreciate your comments:

- What is missing?
- What did you expect to see that wasn't there?
- Any other suggestions.

Send us your thoughts to:

info@era.org.za

VOTE AT EMMARENTIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ERA AGM attracts small numbers

ERA's Executive Committee was disappointed by the poor turnout at its AGM in March.

In 2017 attendance was better. But it was fuelled by extreme anger over City Power: mini sub-stations were old and failing, cable theft was rife and residents were frequently without power for considerable lengths of time. Residents wanted a place to vent their fury and they came in numbers to hear an input from City Power.

This year, perhaps you had all vented your frustrations at the City's rates and valuation meeting that had taken place just a few weeks earlier? Perhaps you just felt that ERA does nothing and wasn't worth sacrificing your evening?

Small but important victories

Whatever the reason, for those that did attend, outgoing chairperson, Geraldine Connell, explained how ERA had achieved "small but important victories" over the previous 12 months.

At the end of March 2017, ERA had met with the Integrated Services Delivery department of the COJ and that "was the key to opening the door to all our contact with the senior staff in COJ which enabled us to achieve our victories," she said.

- **City Power** agreed to help prevent cable theft and now in 2018, a number of roads with copper cable have been replaced by aluminium reducing outages in those streets. But there are still many more that need replacing.
- **Pikitup** continues to assist with removing illegal dumping, bulk waste generated by shops/restaurants and rubbish collected after clean-up days (especially by the Let's Work team).
- **JRA** has fixed potholes and repainted road markings on roads that ERA highlighted (some still to do). With

the help of many of you signing the petition, we secured a 4-way stop on Komatie/Greenhill which has made the corner much safer.

- **City Parks** now mows the grass more frequently in the open park area below the dam (but still needs to be nudged)
- Managing the events that take place in Marks Park and Botanic Gardens to ensure that residents are not too badly affected remains an ERA priority as does representing your views in the matter of the big proposed development below the Shell garage.

Security is still a real concern although ERA wants to take credit for getting the muggings stopped in the Botanic Gardens. (see front page story).

Benefits of a small meeting

Small numbers at the AGM enabled us to engage more easily with those present and find out their concerns.

In the process we secured several volunteers to assist ERA. We welcome Ayanda Mjekula to the ERA Executive Committee, while Haroon Lachporia has offered his financial skills, Kim Frost will work with Khalid Maal on increasing our membership and Feroza Kara with green spaces.

"We look forward to further improvements in suburb management with the help of more residents who are offering their time," says Geraldine.

The first meeting of the Exco after the AGM will take place on April 18. Here the chair and vice chair will be elected. Other portfolios are: treasurer, secretary, communication, green spaces and events, infrastructure, newsletter, security, town planning, building plans and heritage.

If anyone would like to offer their services, we'd love your help and ideas. E-mail info@era.org.za

Thanks to those that commented on our ERA newsletter:

On the basis of the very limited feedback we received (we assume it's because you all love the ERA newsletter and don't want any changes or you never read it. We hope not the latter!)

- We will continue printing it
- We'll try and avoid black writing on green blocks
- And remember that we always appreciate comment, whether good or bad.

⇒ E-mail to info@era.org.za

Upcoming events April–July

APRIL	
25	By-election, Emmarentia Primary School
MAY	
5	Joburg Day, Botanic Gardens
JUNE	
2	JURA, Marks Park and Botanic Gardens
3	JUMA, Marks Park and Botanic Gardens
JULY	
22	702 Walk the Talk. Starts at Marks Park, road closures in Emmarentia

Want more exposure for your business? Want to find out what services are offered in Emmarentia?

The Emmarentia Billboard is an advertising whatsapp group administered by Emmarentia resident, Sardick Davids.

"It's for the people of Emmarentia to advertise their services so we can build familiarity within our neighbourhood amongst our neighbours," he says.

Emmarentia Billboard advertises services offered by those living in Emmarentia (although they may not operate in Emmarentia) AND details services offered by businesses operating in Emmarentia.

If you want to join or add your business, go to:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CS9D09vFacBKK5wV4Ei59>

OR whatsapp the administrator on 076 226 1864

'Let's Work' needs your support

Early in 2017, ERA set up a clean-up team. This was after a very successful turnout of residents who helped remove 10 tons of illegal builders' rubble and cleaned the Spruit on the corner of Linden and Louw Geldenhuis.

However the enthusiasm from residents was short-lived. Soon the clean-up team had dwindled to three; some of you said you were too busy, you would donate money to employ someone.

And then we heard of Felicity Gratz-Lawlor. A ward committee member of our ward 88, her task was infrastructure and the environment. She found many unemployed men, many of whom were

sleeping rough in the green spaces in our suburb and eking out a living from piece jobs like gardening or painting.

With donations from residents in the ward, she was able to employ them. Late last year she registered a NPO, 'Let's Work'. Some of the workers have now found a room to rent and are off the street and out of the park at night because of a more regular income.

Every week, the team at Let's Work 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