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Awards for water excellence

George Municipality Civil Engineering Directorate's name was held high at the recent Western Cape Process Controller gala dinner held in Cape Town, when the George teams received awards both in Water and Wastewater sections.

The ceremony, hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with Water Institute of SA, was held to acknowledge the commendable work done by process controllers and their municipalities to ensure sustainability, to protect water resources and to provide safe drinking water to communities.

The municipality was privileged to receive five awards for the following: **Herold's Bay Wastewater Treatment Works** received

“The ceremony was held to acknowledge the commendable work done by process controllers and their municipalities.”

the award for the Best Wastewater Pond System for Excellent Treatment, Operation and Management Practices at a wastewater Pond system. The plant received the Floating Trophy in the above-mentioned category in the year 2016 and regained it in 2019.

Gwaing Wastewater Treatment Works

received the awards for the First Runner-up in the Category of the Best Wastewater Treatment Works (Greater than 10ML/day) in recognition of commendable treatment, operation and management

practices at a wastewater treatment works with a capacity greater than 10 ML/day and **Uniondale Water Treatment Works** received the award for the First Runner-up in the category of the Best Water Treatment Works (less than 10 ML/d) in recognition of



Melvin Koopman, Aldonay Laws and David Sauls with the awards they accepted on behalf of the plants at the ceremony.

commendable treatment, operation and management practices at a water treatment works with a capacity less than 10 ML/day. Lilanie Stander received a Special Award

for First Runner-up in the category of **Best Female Process Controller** working at a water treatment Works with a capacity less than 10 ML/day.

Mid-year Budget and Performance Assessment

Members of National Treasury visited the George Municipality in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (MFMA, Act No. 56 of 2003) in February this year.

This assessment directly impacts the municipality's adjustments budget preparation as prescribed by the Act.

This year the mid-year engagements focused on the review of the most recent audit outcomes, assessment of 2019/20 financial year performance as at mid-year and Budget preparation for the 2020/21 budget compilation.

Henry Mitchell, Acting Chief Financial Officer of George Municipality, said the meeting held was positive. “We now await the final mid-year assessment, but the interim assessment indicates that the Municipality is in a sound financial position and that George Municipality is one of the best managed municipalities in the country.”



In front are Shanaaz Cupido (Deputy Director: Western Cape Provincial Treasury – Local Government Finance) and Sandra Sekgetle Senior Economist: Local Government Infrastructure at National Treasury. In the second row are from left Remembrance Sebei (Performance Analyst: Provincial Infrastructure at National Treasury), Charles Lubbe (Acting Municipal Manager: George Municipality), Mandla Gilimani (Budget Analyst: Local Government Budget Analysis at National Treasury), Willem Voigt (Director: Local Government Budget Analysis at National Treasury), Wayne McComans (Director: MFMA: Regulatory Oversight), Christopher Mapeyi (Director: Western Cape Provincial Treasury -Local Government Finance), Samukelisiwe Shoji (Salga: Municipal Finance), Henry Mitchell (Acting Chief Financial Officer: George Municipality) and Peter Gelderbloem (Budget Office: George Municipality). At the back are Leon Wallace (Deputy Director: Financial Management – George Municipality), Thabang Mathebula (Local Government Infrastructure Performance – National Treasury) and Malcolm Booysen (Senior Manager: Local Government Budget Office).

24th George Old Car Show

Executive Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, opened the 24th George Old Car Show in February and commended the Committee on always introducing new and ground-breaking initiatives that expand and propel the show to the next level. “You truly uphold the slogan of George, the city for a sustainable future. We all know that a classic car will always turn heads whenever it is on the road- you have brought them to our proverbial doorstep affording us the opportunity to admire them up close.” She thanked the exhibitors for always coming back and supporting the George Old Car Show

and making it a prestigious event for the city.

The dates for the 25th George Old Car Show will be the 14th & 15th of February 2021 and George Municipality looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the organisers. In addition to financial support, the George Municipality provides extensive services support to the event every year including on-site fire safety, traffic regulation around the venue, safety and security planning, refuse removal, installation of electricity kiosks if required and administrative support from the Tourism and Communications departments.



Studebaker with Deputy: Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, was driven by Pierre Conradie in his bright yellow 1960 Studebaker Champ bakkie to the podium where she delivered her welcoming speech.



From left are clean-up organiser Laurel Pelser, ward councillor Marlene Barnardt and Sonneblom Creche volunteer Lemise April in front of a trailer filled with bags that were dropped at the municipal landfill.



Touwsranten youth load black bags filled with litter they collected from the area.

Ward 4: 700 bags, two skips and a truck

The people of Hoekwil and Touwsranten clubbed together to address the issue of illegal dumping and littering in the village Main and Seven Passes Roads late last year.

Armed with hundreds of black bags provided by the municipality, the 30 volunteers collected more than 700 bags with litter and filled a refuse truck and two skips with illegally dumped waste. The George Municipality arranged for the trash to be collected.

Organised by the Hoekwil Ratepayers' Association and supported by Sonneblom Creche, the clean-up involved local school children who could

compete for the most black bags filled with litter.

The children were provided with snacks and taught about

“ 30 Volunteers collected more than 700 bags with litter and filled a refuse truck and two skips with illegally dumped waste. ”

the importance of keeping the environment clean.

While the kids cleaned the village streets, the adults focused on a section of the Seven Passes Road, which proved to be a major illegal

dumping area. Residents donated the use of their vehicles and climbed in to load a truck full of large items including old furniture, building rubble, carpets, buckets, tins and even a geyser.

Marlene Barnardt, who is the ward councillor for the area, participated in the campaign. “The clean-up is a great example of how a community can pull together to address an issue that affects everybody. It was also an excellent opportunity to educate the youth regarding this very topical issue, which will hopefully contribute towards raising more responsible adults.”



Community Workers Programme workers clean the entrance to pedestrian bridge over the N2 at Rosedale. Photo credit: Melanie Maré

Ward 14: Joint clean-up in Rosedale

George Municipality Department Environmental Services joined forces with the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs to clean-up an illegal dumping hot spot next to the N2 in Rosedale.

Workers from the Community Workers Programme (CWP) and Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) assisted in the clean-up while department officials took

to the streets to educate locals about the negative impacts of illegal dumping and littering, and to promote and explain the municipality's three-bag waste reduction programme.

George Municipality provided refuse bags and pickers and arranged for the bags to be removed after the clean-up. A similar project is planned in areas of Blanco later this week.



George Municipality cleansing department project coordinator Grace Notshokovu explains the municipality's three-bag recycling programme to a community member in Rosedale.

Illegal Dumping in stormwater drains causes damage

Heavy rainfall in early February not only raised the level of the Garden Route Dam but also highlighted the complications caused by the ongoing illegal dumping of material into stormwater drains.

Following a flood of calls regarding storm water drains overflowing, it was found that 95% of the drains were blocked by illegal materials and rubbish dumped directly into the drain causing damage and misery to the households further down the line whose yards were flooded.

Please help reduce blocked drains and how to report illegal dumping

One of the main reasons for blocked drains and sewerage spills is the wrong stuff being flushed down toilets or thrown into manholes. Items that should not be flushed down toilets include baby nappies, sanitary pads and tampons, newspaper, cloth and fabric, fatty food or fat. Regular items that municipal staff have to clear from manholes include branches, tyres, rocks and other solid items which is suspected to be dropped in there by mainly children getting up to mischief.

The municipality appeals to communities to NOT flush unsuitable items down the toilet, and to help prevent people from throwing stuff down manholes. Report sewerage complaints to Civil Engineering Services on 044 801 9262/66 during office hours or 044 801 6300 after hours.

Please spread the news in your community that dumping of waste is dangerous and a health hazard. Waste should be collected in refuse bags and placed for collection on waste removal days. Builders rubble and waste not suitable for bags must be dropped at the municipal refuse site on the R102 (airport road).

If you can provide names, vehicle registration details or addresses of alleged perpetrators and are willing to make a



statement in this regard, please report illegal dumping to Law Enforcement at 044 801 6350 or sprins@george.gov.za. You don't need a photograph of the perpetrator, but it will strengthen the case for a warning or fine to be issued. If you notice dumped waste, please report for collection to 044 802 2900.

Help asseblief om geblokkeerde dreine te verminder en hoe om onwettige storting aan te meld.

Die munisipaliteit doen 'n beroep op gemeenskappe om NIE ongesikte items in die toilet af te spoel nie, en om te verhoed dat mense dinge in mangate gooi. Rapporteer riool klagtes by kantooringenieursdienste by 044 801 9262/66 gedurende kantoorure of 044 801 6300 na-ure.

Versprei asseblief die nuus in u gemeenskap dat storting van afval gevaarlik is en 'n gesondheidsgevaar is. Afval moet in vullissakke versamel word en op die dae van afval verwyder word. Bouers, rommel en afval wat nie geskik is vir sakke nie, moet op die munisipale

vullisterrein op die R102 (lughawepad) afgelaai word.

As u name, voertuigregistrasie-besonderhede of adresse van vermeende oortreders kan verstrek en bereid is om 'n verklaring in hierdie verband af te lê, meld asseblief onwettige storting aan by wetstoepassing by 044 801 6350 of sprins@george.gov.za. U hoef nie 'n foto van die dader te hê nie, maar dit sal die saak versterk om 'n waarskuwing of boete uit te reik. Meld asb. Afvalstowwe aan, rapporteer dit vir afhaal by 044 802 2900.

Nceda ekunciphiseni imijelo evingcekileyo nakwindlela yokuchaza ukulahlwa kwenkunkuma ngokungekho mthethweni

Esinye sezizathu esikhulu sokuvingceka kwemijelo nokuphuphuma kwemijelo yamanzi amdaka zizinto ezingalunganga ezigungxulwa kwizindlu zangasese okanye ezilahlwa kwimixuma yamanzi esiphango. Izinto ekungafunekanga zigungxulwe kwizindlu zingasese ziquka amanapukeni abantwana, isikhuselo sococeko xa usexesheni, isivingco

sokunqanda ukopha, amaphepha-ndaba amalaphu, ukutya okunamafutha okanye amafutha. Izinto eziqhelekileyo ezithi zikhutshwe ngabasebenzi bakamasipala kule mingxuma yamanzi esiphango ziquka amasebe,amatayara kunye nezinye izinto eziqinileyo ekurhaneleka ukuba zilahlwa ngabantwana ingakumbi, xa besenza intlondi.

Umasipala uyabongoza kuLuNtu lonke ukuba lungagungxuli izinto ezingafanelakanga kwizindlu zangasese , kwaye luncede ekunqandeni abantu ekujuleni izinto kwimixuma yamanzi esiphango. Xela zonke izikhalazo ngothungelwano lwemijelo ehambisa amanzi amdaka kwiiNkonzo zobuNjineli boLwankiwo kwa-044 801 9262/66 ngeeyure zomsebenzi okanye kwa -044 801 6300 emva kweeyure zomsebenzi.

Nceda usasaze ezi ndaba kuLuNtu lwakho zokuba ukulahlwa kwenkunkuma kuyingozi kwaye kuyingozi kwimpilo. Inkunkuma kufuneka iqokolelwe kwingxowa zenkunkuma ze ibekwe ukuze iqokolelwe ngeentsuku zokususwa kwenkunkuma. Inkunkuma yabakhi nenkunkuma engafanelekanga ukuba ingafakwa kwiingxowa zenkunkuma kufuneka ilahlwe kwisiza sokulahla inkunkuma sikamasipala kuR102 (eAirport Road).

Ukuba unako nikezela ngamagama, iinkcukacha zenombolo yesithuthi okanye iidilesi zabantu abarhaneleka ngokwenza obu bubi kwaye uyavuma ukwenza ingxelo malunga noku, nceda uxele ukulahlwa kwenkunkuma ngokungekho mthethweni kubaNyanzelisi boMthetho kwa-044 801 6350 okanye kusprins@george.gov.za. Awudingi mfanekiso womenzi wobubi, kodwa oku kungaqinisa ityala malunga nokukhutshwa kwesilumkiso okanye isohlwayo. Ukuba uphawule inkunkuma elahlweyo, nceda uyixele ukuze iqokolelwe kwa-044 802 2900.



Lifeguards crew leader Rico Koen (left) and firefighter Johan Troskie who manned the municipality's specialised jetski this summer.

Specialised jetski powerful addition

George Fire and Rescue added a specially modified rescue jetski to its fleet to complement its water rescue capabilities just before the start of season last year and was used in a number of rescues as well as to patrol and guide swimmers in staying between the flags on various beaches.

George Fire Chief Neels Barnard said the watercraft had been modified to withstand breaking wave conditions and was fitted with a rescue sled. “The 1800cc two-man jetski can get to a drowning person much quicker than rubber dinghies or boats that must be launched, and can manoeuvre around rocky areas where swimming rescuers may not be able to access without endangering themselves.”

The craft is designed to hold two rescuers: one to operate the jetski and support the rescue from the craft while the other jumps into the water and transfer the drowning person onto the sled. The rescue sled can be strapped to the jetski and the rescuer can continue to help the patient from the back of the craft.

The jetski was stationed at the busiest beaches this holiday season and serviced all six of the municipalities’ beaches and lagoons. During backline training exercises the Jetski was able to respond within 2 minutes 30 seconds whereas a standard rescue by swimmer took 20 -30 minutes. Rescue personnel have been specially trained to manoeuvre and use the powerful machine.

Garden Route SAESI branch

Local emergency services stand to benefit greatly from the recently established Garden Route branch of the South African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI).

Until recently the region’s fire departments belonged to the Southern Cape branch of the national body, which meant valuable information and opportunities were sometimes lost in the delayed communication process via the Cape Town office.

George Fire Department Platoon Leader Santa Sternsdorf, who served on the interim council while the new branch was getting organised, said the Garden Route branch would now connect directly with the national body and receive everything first-hand. “Information about new innovations, training, bursaries and community projects would

reach us quicker, increase efficiency and ultimately benefit the communities we serve.”

The new Garden Route branch consists of the municipal fire departments for Central Karoo, Bitou, George, Hessequa, Kannaland, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn and Garden Route District as well as the fire services of PetroSA in Mossel Bay and ACSA at the George Airport.

The first general meeting was held on 6 February 2020 in Mossel Bay to elect a new council. The newly appointed chairman, Oudtshoorn Fire Chief Adél Supra-Vertue and vice chairman, Mossel Bay Fire Platoon Commander Johann Makwak, will soon conduct a roadshow to Garden Route emergency services to inform them of the branch, its mission and vision and to recruit members.



Attendees at the first general meeting of SAESI Garden Route in Mossel Bay on 6 February.



Here are the volunteers from the different communities with their appreciation certificates at the function in Lawaakamp Community Hall with officials and councillors from the George Municipality Community Development section.

George fire gets specialised tractor for firebreaks

The George Municipality Fire Department took delivery of a specialised multi-use 4x4 tractor for the clearing of firebreaks across the municipal area. The department had until now shared a general tractor with other departments. The funky new addition to the

fleet is designed to access rugged terrain typical of the areas surrounding the George municipal area and is fitted with a specialised blade in front to scrape roads and a brush cutter (bossiekapper) at the back for cutting grass and fine brush.



George Fire Station Commander Johann Crouse (left) and Fire Chief Neels Barnard took delivery on behalf of the department.

Soup kitchen volunteers thanked

George Municipality held its annual thank you lunch for the Soup Kitchen volunteers that run 136 nutritional centres across George, Touwsrante and Uniondale areas.

According to Cllr Sean Snyman, Portfolio Councillor for Community Development and Social Services, the Municipality currently supplies 136 nutritional centres in the municipal jurisdiction with dry ingredients to provide at least three nutritious meals to approximately 100 hungry children, people on chronic medications and frail elders three times a week. This equates to 129 000 meals provided on a monthly basis to hungry mouths.

George Council is aware of the dire need in the communities and started the project to bring some relief to those people in the community who cannot fend for themselves. Chronic sick people are referred by the clinics

to the nearest soup kitchen in their area. According to Ms Yuleen Campher, Coordinator, the soup kitchens are run at home by volunteers for which no compensation is received. If you are unsure of where your closest soup kitchen is situated, you can visit the George Municipal office on the corner of St. John's and Varing Lane. Prior to a soup kitchen being opened, an investigation must take place to ensure that the applicant adheres to the conditions stipulated in the municipal policy and weekly monitoring is done at all of the soup kitchens. You can apply to run a soup kitchen at the Social Service offices, on the corner of St John's and Varing Lane. Yuleen Campher and Veronique Ferndale are responsible for the Soup kitchen Project and any valid complaints about any of the soup kitchens, can be reported to them on 044 802 2000.

Graduation Ceremony honours students

The George Community Services Directorate, Youth Development Section conducted Youth Leadership Development Workshops for youth from several areas concluding training with 125 students. This programme cultivates responsible citizenship amongst young people, stimulating them to become productive citizens, who are able to apply innovative approaches and solutions to challenges that young people are facing, and act as Youth Ambassadors in their areas. Students were drawn from Kleinkrantz, Touwsrante, Pacaltsdorp, Rosemore and Parkdene.

The training was done inhouse and took place over a period of two full days per area with a series of workshops held in different venues. Through this programme, the Youth Development Section aims to create a sense of responsibility, through patriotism, amongst young people. The students have been capacitated with Leadership and Lifeskills Training, Vision Creation, Partnership Establishment and Job Readiness in order for them to identify workable solutions, through workable, ward-based programmes to



address the challenges that they are facing.

A graduation ceremony was held late last year to honour the students with a full programme of events. Councillor Jacquique

Von Brandis provided the keynote address and indicated that she had also taken part in such a youth leadership programme, many years ago, and because of this programme

she is now a local government councillor. She encouraged the students. "I feel that with the right attitude and hard work you can reach great heights," said Cllr Von Brandis.



The People Living on the Street committee attending the event are from left, Mzoli Mavimbela, Loretta Roelfse, Merle Swart, Errol Jaftha, Hayzel Faro, Lt Col Elmarie van der Westhysen, Cllr Erica Brown, Alta Gardemer, Cllr Sean Snyman, Cllr Elizabeth Stroebe, Capt. Louis Boshoff, Estelle Botha Fredericks, Geraldo Potts and Julie Stoffels.

16 Days of Activism

George Municipality in conjunction with different stakeholders held an awareness event in December on gender-based violence during the countrywide 16 Days of activism campaign. The Department of Health, the South African Police Service, SANCA, the Department of Social Services, CHREMHOG, Hope Church, JAICOAS and George Museum joined the Municipality in this campaign.

Jani Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen and Francois van der Merwe from Greystorm Tactical security company, taught the women ways of defending themselves during a self-defence class at the event. Although their main focus was for the women to get away from the imminent

danger or perpetrator. Members of the Patria Church held a discussion with the men attending, and introduced a programme they run at the church called the Men of Honour programme. As part of the programme they teach men how to behave and how to deal with life situations without taking it out on other people with anger.

The keynote speaker, Cllr Sean Snyman, Portfolio Councillor for Social Community services, Sport and Libraries reiterated that every day should be a day of no violence and not just the 16 days. During the event attendees could light a candle in remembrance of those who lost their lives due to gender-based violence.



Here are Andre Olivier from Chremhog with Estelle Fredericks from the George Municipality Social Development section with the toiletry essentials.

Homeless Survival Pack

CHREMHOG (Christian Ministries to the Homeless of George) in conjunction with George Municipality took the initiative to assist people living on the street during the festive season with a 10 day survival pack to ensure that the vulnerable groups are looked after.

100 people living on the street received needed toiletries, thereby ensuring that the most vulnerable people also enjoyed their festive season.

Celebrating World Read Aloud Day

George Libraries celebrated World Read Aloud Day on 5 February by visiting school, creches and hosted readings at some of the libraries. The day was a huge success in George and surrounds with children and adults enjoying the storytelling. The story that was chosen to be read to the youngsters is, A day to remember. The library joined Nali'bali (isiXhosa for "here's the story"), a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign. It seeks to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa, so that reading, writing and sharing stories - in all South African languages - is part of everyday life.



James de Waal, Library Official reads aloud to children at Conville Library.



Janine Pierre-Carolus reads to Grade 1's at Hibernia Primary School.



Getting ready to listen to their story at Rooibootjie creche in Syferfontein.



From left are SANParks Wilderness representative Carel van der Merwe, Executive Deputy Mayor Charlotte Clarke and Garden Route District Municipality Executive Mayor Alderman Memory Booysen.

Wilderness Beach: Pilot Blue Flag 2019/20

Wilderness Beach on 3 December hoisted its Pilot Blue Flag for the 2019/20 season during a short ceremony at the beach in front of Salina’s Restaurant.

The beach incorporates jurisdiction of SANParks, Garden Route District Municipality and George Municipality. The Blue Flag is a joint project of these roleplayers, with major involvement of Salina’s Restaurant, which overlooks Wilderness beach, and with the support of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) that manages the Blue Flag programme in South Africa. It is the second consecutive year the beach has Pilot Blue Flag status since Garden Route District Municipality re-applied for the accolade. Wilderness had full status in previous years but skipped application in 2017 due to administrative changes at the

Compliance includes high standards of water quality monitoring, public safety and lifeguard services, and well-maintained coastal amenities.

District Municipality. The Blue Flag season in Wilderness runs from 1 December 2019 to 31 January 2020. Compliance includes high standards of water quality monitoring, public safety and lifeguard services, and well-maintained coastal amenities.

South Africa has participated in the Blue Flag programme since 2001. Blue Flag is an international coastal management programme that accredits beaches that meet standards of excellence in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and information as well as safety and services.

The Blue Flag programme offers many benefits: improved tourism facilities, enhanced management of coastal ecosystems, increased awareness of the coast and capacity building of coastal municipalities. In South Africa the programme is implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA).

World Aids Day Awareness

George Municipality in conjunction with other stakeholders celebrated World AIDS day in Waboomskraal and Touwsranten to raise awareness about the disease, what help there is for the public and especially the youth, to commemorate those who have passed and celebrate increased access to treatment and prevention services.

World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1st each year around the world to raise awareness of the disease.

An awareness event was held in early December at the Waboomskraal Thusong Centre for the community.

A fun walk from the Terblanche farm to Waboomskraal Thusong Centre was held to spread the message of hope. Various organisations presented their services to the community. Health tests were done by the Department of Health, Bethesda Hospice and SHE(Social Health and Empowerment). People were tested for HIV, TB, STI

screening, blood pressure, diabetes and more. Educational games were played with the children and youth to spread the HIV message.

George Municipality and other stakeholders made sure that Touwsranten was the place to be with a stage, DJ, music, dancing, numerous stalls and give-aways made for a great World AIDS Day and B-Wise event.

Over 500 people attended the event with George Municipality, Western Cape Government Health, B-Wise, LoveLife and She Conquers (Social Health and Empowerment) as the main organisers on the day.

The aim of the day was to highlight World Aids Day, get youth signed up on B-Wise and to discuss the She Conquers initiative. All of these are aimed at reducing HIV infections, teenage pregnancy and to uplift our youth to reach their full potential.



White and red balloons were released at the AIDS day event in Waboomskraal on 6 December in remembrance of all who died because of this disease.



Children enjoy the paint fun at the event in Touwsranten.



Dominique Otgaar and Yvonne Mnapu, George Human Settlements Directorate, at the outreach explaining housing issues on behalf of the George Municipality.

Joint Community Outreach successful

A Community Outreach convened by George Municipality, Government and other stakeholders at Touwsranten Community Hall in February was another successful outreach to about 200 people.

According to Mr Peter Noble from George Municipality this engagement was coordinated by Customer Care Section following similar requests by the local Ward Councillor Marlene Barnardt and the Department of Employment and Labour to bring much needed services to the Touwsranten,Wilderness, Kleinkrantz and surrounding communities.

“I spoke to several residents and they were very appreciative of the fact that they could access services without having to travel into George and pay taxi-fees,”

Barnardt said. She thanked all the officials for their hard work and enthusiasm.

George Municipality officials assisted with the housing waiting list, Indigent enquiries/applications; Social Services; HIV Aids, Environmental Services, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP); and the Community Work Programme (CWP).

The Department of Employment and Labour assisted with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), database enquiries, while the Department of Health did screening and tests and the George Association for Persons with Disability (APD)was also present. Cape Nature provided information sessions and the Africa Skills Centre handled enquiries directed at them.

OCC 2020

The George Municipality takes pride in its association with the 18th annual Outeniqua Chair Challenge (OCC) which took place in February. In addition to a substantial financial contribution, municipal staff and councillors were involved in everything from major logistical support to pushing wheelchairs.

George Executive Deputy Mayor Charlotte Clarke said the OCC was an inspiring event that showcased the heart of the George community and its inherent compassion for the disabled. "While we are always proud of the top national and international athletes this event attracts, we love the spirit of the 5km fun ride in which able-bodied people push the chairs of nearly 800 disabled people who are just enthralled by the fun and excitement.

"It is an extraordinary event in which disabled people, and those who love and support them, get an opportunity to celebrate life and be inspired. The George Municipality is blessed to be part of this event and hopes to remain involved indefinitely.

"We have many dreams for our city to become more than just the host of the wheelchair race, and we are working towards a sports festival for people of all kinds of disabilities," said Ms Clarke.

More than 1000 disabled people participated in this year's event, including top international stars such as Ernst van Dyk, Pieter du Preez and Stuart McCreadie, young and upcoming star Zach Legward and well-known RSG radio personality Martelize Brink. The race also had some international flavour with athletes from Namibia, Zimbabwe and Ghana.



GO GEORGE mascots Smartie and Georgie and staff cheered on race-goers with great enthusiasm. Picture: Desmond Scholtz

Statistics for this annual event:

- A total of 400 officials, marshals, traffic officers, route layout crew, and registration staff;
- 250 volunteers give of their time to push chairs and assist with other tasks;
- the OCC organising committee consists of over 50 members under the leadership of event director, Alewijn Dippenaar;
- more than 15 service providers supply portable toilets, tents, food, medals, sound, stage and race timekeeping.
- Eleven water points were manned by 70 crew members.
- Eighty-five assisted with registration, at the race village

and as marshals.

- Thirty-two businesses supported the event financially or with products and/or services.
- Six service organisations who work with people with disabilities were involved.
- Three thousand units of water were handed out.
- Two thousand meals were served during supper in Friday and lunch on Saturday.
- 21 km of delineators were placed along the route.

Event director, Alewijn Dippenaar, has confirmed that the 19th OCC will take place on 19 and 20 February 2021, with Carpe Diem again be the host venue.



George Municipality Gender and Disability Coordinator Ejustley Boshoff (red cap) were behind-the-scenes support and pushed a wheelchair in the 5km.



George Municipality councillors and officials pushed wheelchairs in the 5km fun event. Picture: Desmond Scholtz

Tacoma delegation welcomed to Sister City George

Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, officially welcomed delegates from George's Sister City, Tacoma in the United States, at a gala dinner at Pine Lodge last month. Cllr Clarke welcomed the Mayor of Tacoma City and all the 23 delegates from different spheres of the City.

Clarke said the sister city working relationship has matured over the years and that George anticipates it reaching new levels and heights. "This partnership not only serves as a platform to set new strategic objectives to prepare and propel the individual cities to heights not even thought about. Partnerships are crucial to move and reach beyond barriers... to accomplish objectives and to face the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution and digitisation." Clarke thanked the organising committee for spearheading this visit and optimising its potential.

Mayor Victoria Woodards said she had the most amazing welcoming at the airport with the South Cape choir singing and dancing. She said George is Tacoma's fifth sister city that they are visiting. They have been to Japan, South Korea, Croatia, Ukraine. George Councillors, officials, local business people, clergy and more joined the delegation on Saturday at the dinner.



In the photo are in front from left sitting, Past. Debbie Bruce, Cllr Liza Stroebe, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, Acting Executive Mayor of George, Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma, Keith Blocker, Deputy Mayor of Tacoma and Melannie Cunningham, Chair Tacoma-George Sister City Committee, Tacoma, Washington. At the back are more members of the delegation, councillors and locals.



From left to right are Tacoma Deputy Mayor Keith Bloder, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, George Fire Chief Neels Barnard, Acting Executive Mayor Charlotte Clarke, and George Municipality councillors Hendrik Ingo, Iona Kritzing, Raybin-Gibbs Figland, Jacquiquie Von Brandis and Cecil Noble.

Tacoma sister city tour

Delegates from George's sister municipality, Tacoma in the United States, were in George in February for a range of outreach programmes in which local communities benefitted. The group visited the office of Acting Executive Mayor Charlotte Clarke and received a painting by Thembaletu-based artist Desmond Jandyc as a keepsake of their visit. Their other stops included a visit to George Tourism and a firefighting demonstration at the Denneoord Fire Base.

Where to get your GO GEORGE Smart Card



SMART CARD KIOSKS

You can buy a Smart Card, top up with trips and make enquiries about Smart Card issues at any of the following kiosks:

- Blanco Triangle
- George Transport Hub, Cradock Street
- York Street
- Garden Route Mall bus terminus
- Smart card mobile vehicles travelling all over town on a fixed weekly schedule:



Pacaltsdorp		
Protea Road/Valk Crescent (close to butchery)	Mon	09:00 - 11:30
Spar parking area, Beach Road	Mon	16:30 - 19:00
	Thu	09:00 - 11:30
Olympic Street/Beach Road intersection	Wed	06:00 - 08:30
	Fri	06:00 - 08:30
Rosedale: opposite Divine Fish and Chips	Tue	16:30 - 19:00
	Sat	13:00 - 16:00
Rosedale Supermarket	Fri	09:00 - 11:30
Rosedale: near Eve bus stop	Mon	06:00 - 08:30
Entrance to Syferfontein	Sat	09:00 - 12:00
Harmony Park: Corner Rose & Jacaranda/Aloe Street	Tue	16:30 - 19:00
	Thu	06:00 - 08:30
New Dawn Park: near Sierrissie bus stop	Thu	06:00 - 08:30
New Dawn Park Primary School	Mon	13:00 - 16:00
Protea terminal (opposite Hypersave)	Wed	13:00 - 16:00
	Fri	16:30 - 19:00
Blanco		
Crystal Ave/Golden Valley Drive intersection	Tue	06:00 - 08:30
	Fri	16:30 - 19:00
Fortuin Street, near George Street intersection	Thu	16:30 - 19:00
	Sun	13:00 - 16:00
Rosemoor		
George High School	Tue	13:00 - 16:00
Highway Fisheries, Beer Street	Wed	16:30 - 19:00
	Fri	13:00 - 16:00
Rosa Café, O'Connell Street	Tue	09:00 - 11:30
Protea Park/Lavalla: Docks Mission Church	Sun	09:00 - 12:00
Busy Corner	Thu	09:00 - 11:30
Industrial areas		
In front of Golden Harvest Wholesale, Meul Street	Mon	16:30 - 19:00
	Wed	13:00 - 16:00
Other		
George Hospital	Mon	13:00 - 16:00
	Fri	09:00 - 11:30
York Street Centre parking area, opposite Eden Technical High School	Tue	13:00 - 16:00

NEW LOCATIONS IN PHASE 4B

Convillie		
Convillie Community Library	Wed	09:00 - 11:30
	Sat	13:00 - 16:00
Lawaalkamp		
Nelson Mandela Boulevard & Main Intersection, near Cheap Foods	Fri	06:00 - 08:30
	Sun	13:00 - 16:00
Borchards		
Heidedal Primary School	Tue	09:00 - 11:30
	Thu	13:00 - 16:00
	Sat	09:00 - 12:00
Nelson Mandela Boulevard & Thomas Intersection, near Boeta's Corner	Mon	06:00 - 08:30
	Wed	16:30 - 19:00
Parkdene		
Life Community Services Centre, Fiskaal Street	Mon	09:00 - 11:30
	Thu	16:30 - 19:00
Parkdene Secondary School	Tue	06:00 - 08:30
	Fri	13:00 - 16:00
	Sun	09:00 - 12:00

TOP UP @ SMART CARD VENDORS

For passengers' convenience, a network of registered Smart Card vendors have been established in the community, all over town. These vendors do top-ups of trips only and do not sell Smart Cards.

Trips on the Smart Card never expire and are valid until you use them.

- Vendors in the new Phase 4B neighbourhoods (Parkdene, Ballotsview, Convillie, Borchards and Lawaalkamp) are currently in the process of registration and will be announced as soon as they are open for business.



BLANCO

- Caltex Blanco, 15 Montagu St
- New Life, 16 George Rd
- Millies Superette, 15 George Rd

CBD

- Follow me, 53 Hibernia St
- Second Baby, 29F Courtenay St
- Good and More, 114 Cradock St
- Merriman Café, Merriman St
- Central Store, Hibernia St
- Yorkers Superette, 16 York St
- Madiba Superette, George Arcade
- Fresh Stop on York, 1 York St
- Captain's Cabin, Cradock St
- Milk & Juice, Cradock St
- A1 Plastics, 72 Hibernia St
- Biltong Warehouse, Harry Mann Square
- Biltong Warehouse, York St
- Biltong Warehouse, George Arcade
- Foodz, 8 Memorium St

DENNEOORD

- Denneoord Multisave
- Henmar Superette

EASTERN PART OF GEORGE

- Computer Store, Paddagat Centre
- Biltong Warehouse, Knysna Rd
- Post @ George, cnr 4th & Akasia St

INDUSTRIAL AREA

- Why Not Take Aways, Tamsui Industria

PACALTSDORP

- Brown Country Grocer, 40 Beach Rd
- Green Haven, 2 Protea Rd
- Belair Café, 1 Flamink St
- M Hasan Stores, 5093 Japonika St
- Delville Park Superette, Square Hill Dr
- JR Butchery, Section St
- MDA Shop, 4787 Primrose Crescent
- Grasshopper Grasdienste (M Brown)
- Sommer So, 55 Rose St
- Sindwizama General Trading, ND Park
- Poppie's Café, 27 Rose St
- Siena Morris (roaming vendor)



Call Centre: 0800 044 044
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The Middelburg women's clubs senior and junior teams were winners in the women's division.

Inaugural George Tens a good foundation to build on

The inaugural George Tens club rugby tournament has laid a good foundation for what we hope will become a major attraction to our city and region in future. The George Municipality sponsored R150 000 towards the 2019 event in which 32 teams competed. It was the first tournament of its kind to

include a women's division. The tournament was preceded by a rugby clinic for school children in which former rugby players, coaches and administrators such as Danie Gerber, Ian McIntosh, Dick Muir, Peter de Villiers and Bevan Fortuin shared their knowledge and skills to a new generation.



The Legends team, consisting of former provincial and Springbok rugby players from across South Africa, won the veterans division of the competition.

Ward 18: Oewer Street

Cllr Donovan Gultig, Ward Councillor for Ward 18, donated funds from the Ward Based Committee Projects to citizens of Oewer Street, Denneoord who yearly decorates their homes with Christmas lights. Every year Oewer Street is a big tourist attraction to locals and people outside George.

The funds are to be used to make the displays even more spectacular. In front are Linke Anker (5), Lylah Anker (9), Megan Julyan (7), Lara Rossouw (7) and Lena Olivier (3). At the back are Mina Carolus, Hannes Labuschagne, Colette Rossouw, Tersia Weyers, Danie Nel, Caren Ogilvie, Kayleen Olivier and Cllr Gultig.



Cllr Sean Snyman (right) and Brig. Genl. Gerald Pharo, commander of the Military Academy watch how the students set off.

GEORGE AND WILDERNESS marketed in India

Officials from George Municipality represented the tourism sector for a second year in a row at the South African Tourism (SAT) Road Show in India during January. This year, participating exhibitors were given the opportunity to also attend SATTE, South Asia's leading tourism trade show. SATTE and the SAT Road Show were both very well attended, and interest in the Garden Route remains strong.

The South African Tourism road show started with SATTE in New Delhi, and then travelled to Bangalore, Pune and ended in Mumbai. At SATTE, the South African Tourism stand was incredibly full throughout the show, and there was a lot of new interest by tour operators who have not yet entered the market but have received requests from their clients to travel to South Africa. They needed assistance in learning what George and Wilderness have to offer.

There were 463 trade visitors to the South African Tourism Road Show, with high level

decision makers such as directors, partners and owners in attendance. The Garden Route is a firm favourite for most established operators and they sought new information about what the area offers, and assistance in finding 3 to 5-star accommodation for FIT's, as well as scenic experiences.

The road show also provided an opportunity to network with South African operators and DMC's to educate them about what the area offers. Top participants included Thompsons, Springbok Atlas, Africa Incoming, African Pride Tours, Tourvest, Albatros Travel and Royal African Discoveries.

India is a target country identified by South African Tourism and included in the George Municipality Tourism Strategy as a key market to combat seasonality over winter months. Indian travellers to South Africa usually peak during May. Many leading tourism businesses in George and Wilderness accommodate this market, and marketing has been continued to protect and grow the market share.



George Tourism Manager Joan Shaw (wearing blue) telling Indian tourism operators of the wonders of the George, Wilderness and Uniondale tourism offering during the South African Tourism (SAT) Road Show in India.

Transenduro visits George

Seven different groups of which were runners, cyclists and boatsmen from the Military Academy set off from George and Wilderness for the next stage of the annual TransEnduro early in December. The students handed over a token of appreciation to George Councillor for Community Social Development and Sport, Sean Snyman.

Snyman thanked the Military for choosing George as their preferred destination for this trip and as it was World Disability Awareness Day, he mentioned the fact that they are lucky to be healthy and privileged to be taking part in this event. A group of the Military stayed behind to do

charity work in Thembaletu. Major Beverley Geldenhuys thanked the city for its hospitality and handed a letter of goodwill and a 2020 diary from the Bitou Municipality, the team's previous stop, to Cllr Snyman.

The TransEnduro is a military tradition dating back to the 1980s in which students from the South African Military run, cycle and sail from Port Elizabeth to the Military Academy in Saldanha. The event is supported by student-based logistics and administration teams and is complemented by a strong community outreach programme and fundraising efforts in the towns they visit.