

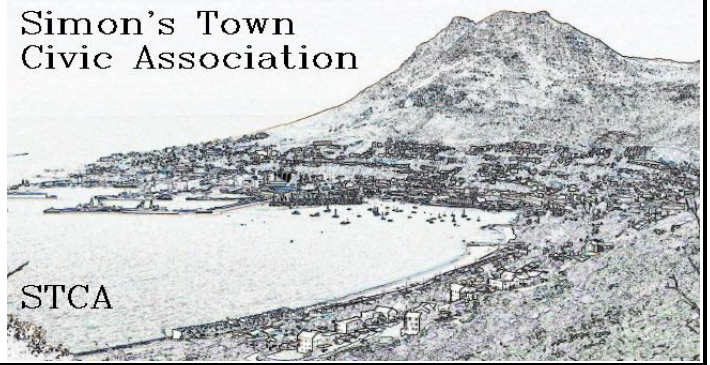
P. O. Box 47
Simon's Town
7995
stcmail@gmail.com
<http://southerncrossroads.info/ggvnw/>

Serving Simon's Town and Glencairn

STCA NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Simon's Town
Civic Association



The STCA wishes all its members a joyous and peaceful holiday season and a rewarding New Year that brings happiness to all in our community.

2012 AGM

The STCA AGM will take place at 19h30 on Wednesday 22 February. Please make a note of the date – details of the speaker will be circulated nearer the time.

STCA New Year's Eve Community Picnic

Come and join the fun on New Year's Eve. Tickets for the Community Picnic on Jubilee Square are available from the Simon's Town Pharmacy for a donation of R80 per person. Each ticket includes an indemnity form (required by the City for any event on their property). Please complete this form and bring it with the attached ticket to the Picnic. Like last year, it will be a closed event, and entry will only be by pre-purchased ticket. For those who wish to augment their picnics there are takeaways available from the Quarterdeck Restaurant (on Jubilee Square) and Cafe Pescado (across from the Square). Alternatively you can book for the special New Year sit-down meal in the Quarterdeck Restaurant (R220pp – visit them to see their menu and make a booking) or make a booking at other Simon's Town restaurants.

Meeting with Cape Town Tourism

Councillor Simon Liell-Cock organised a meeting with the Simon's Town Business Association (SBA), the STCA and Cape Town Tourism (CTT) to follow up on the rather negative meeting the STCA held with CTT here a year ago. Unlike the previous meeting, this was very positive and it is clear that CTT is coming to realise the importance of our area as a tourist destination. CTT are keen to work with Simon's Town and we are providing them with updated information. At a second meeting with the local office staff, discussions were held to identify ways in which the Simon's Town Information Office can be improved in the immediate future. Also of interest is an initiative called 'Cultural Coast' to create a cultural-type route - like a wine route - from Muizenberg to Simon's Town, covering the museums and heritage centres. Look out for the new updated Simon's Town Guide and Map that is being put out in December by Simonstown.com and the SBA.

Vagrants

It appears that Simon's Town is seen as a vagrant-friendly place and we are having an increasing number of vagrants arriving in Town. This is chasing visitors and residents away from our businesses and creating health hazards as they defecate and litter in our streets and alleys. Please **DO NOT**: give vagrants odd jobs (like washing cars, which is against the law); **DO NOT** feed vagrants; **DO NOT** give money to vagrants; **DO NOT** buy from hawkers/illegal traders. The SBA and Community Police Forum have been in contact with Social Services to find accommodation (beyond Happy Valley which is full) for the vagrants who have streamed into town – with little success. Clearly this is a social issue which needs serious attention. Meanwhile, if you wish to assist homeless people, please donate to Happy Valley who provide meals for large numbers of needy people.

Security issues

Thanks to the financial contributions from Thomas Street residents, there will be two security guards on duty in central Simon's Town for the next month, and they will extend their coverage to the Lanes and vacant land behind the shops. These areas have become increasingly attractive to vagrants and consequently have developed into a health hazard. Additional donations from residents towards extending this security coverage will be very welcome. Please contact Margaret at Paddlers, 021 786 2626 if you are able to make a contribution. We are also warned to be extra vigilant at this time of year – watch your handbag in restaurants and shops and be sure to cover your fingers as you enter a card pin-code. Do not let your credit card out of your sight. Sadly the Simon's Town Police station continues to be understaffed; the STCA has repeatedly written strong letters to register our concern about this.

Alfred Hall

Sadly the Alfred Hall, up Wickboom Lane, is in a dreadful state of disrepair. Cllr Liell-Cock and representatives from the STCA and SBA met with City officials on site recently. The City has recently commissioned a consultant to investigate its possible restoration which is expected cost around R10 - R12 million. The important historic value of the building has been recognised by the City, but the question that remains is: If the building is restored, what could it be used for? If you have any suggestions as to how a restored Alfred Hall could be utilised and contribute to our Town's heritage please submit ideas to Nicki Holderness via the STCA.

Glencairn

The Glencairn Strip is hosting a community family day from 10am until late on Saturday the 17th December 2011. Residents and visitors are invited to explore the beautiful Glencairn valley and join in a Heritage walk around the neighbourhood. Children will enjoy the art project with local artist Donald Barnett, and the giant Zorba pool. Arts and crafts will be on sale at the market and will include homemade fudge, wire works and hand appliquéd African Crafts. Visit the local shops and eateries, all of which will have special treats on offer. The day's events will round off with Jeff and Julie leading Christmas Carols on the Bay Cafe Deck with free lucky packets to the children who sing. Bring a small present for Red Hill Children; also please bring your own candles. There will be a fire dancing display once it gets dark. This is a community day to meet the neighbours and local businesses of Glencairn and everyone is invited and welcome. Contact 021 782 0314 for more details.

Local artists, crafters, authors, musicians are welcome to join in the day – trading is free but participants must supply their own table, shade and talent. Please call 021 782 0314/5 for more information to trade your talents on the Glencairn strip!

AfriOceans Holiday Programme for Children

AfriOceans in Glencairn are offering a five-day, hands-on interactive marine education programme suitable for children 7 – 12 years old. Three five-day courses are being offered starting respectively on 12 December, 19 December and 3 January. Children can also participate in painting an "AWESome" mural on the wall above Glencairn Station under the guidance of artist Donald Barnett on Saturday 17 December. For more information on both programmes please phone 021-782 1348.

Working with the School

Simon's Town School recently held an Appreciation Tea to thank the many members of the Simon's Town community who have been involved in the School activities. These activities have ranged from coaching soccer and participating in the Learn to Read programme, to providing sandwiches for pupils, some of whom come to school on an empty stomach. Headmistress Jean Human and her staff expressed their thanks to all who have made the school their own over the past year. Anyone interested in helping the school in 2012 should please contact Jack London on 021 786 5537.

Rainfall and Water Conservation

Hylton Conacher, the Simon's Town resident who has monitored the daily rainfall in Simon's Town over the past years, puts out his statistics each month. Anyone wishing to receive the rainfall statistics can email Hylton at hylton@conacher.co.za. His recent statistics point out that the 2011 rainfall is 67% below the past three year average. Since 2007 the annual rainfall has decreased by 27%. These are scary statistics. Clean water is one of our most valuable and limited resources – something we all need to remember. Water restrictions are still in place, and the City's Water By-law forbids using potable water to water the garden or open spaces between 10 am and 4pm.

Smart Living Handbook

The City's Smart Living Handbook was updated during 2011. It is a goldmine of information on sensible and sustainable living, with details on managing Waste, Energy, Water and Biodiversity in our homes and City. It is extremely practical, focusing on Cape Town and how residents and the City can work in a partnership to save both our environment and money. The Smart Living Handbook is recommended for every household. It can be downloaded from <http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/EnvironmentalResourceManagement/Pages/SmartLivingHandbook.aspx> or obtained from the City by contacting smartliving@capetown.gov.za or telephoning 021 487 2829.

Art Exhibition

Simon's Bay Fine Art will be holding their Christmas Art Exhibition, featuring proudly South African goods including paintings, homemade glassware, pottery and greeting cards. The Exhibition will be open from 10am to 5pm on 15, 16, 17 December and 10am – 3pm on Sunday 18 December. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to bring a small treat for the "Basket of Cheer" that will be donated to Fish Hoek Meals on Wheels.

STCA Subscriptions

STCA membership fees (**R50 per annum per household**) became due on 1 January 2011. Please pay membership fees (cash) at the STADCO parking office on Jubilee Square during office hours, or by internet banking. (We are trying to avoid use of cheques if at all possible - the bank is now charging exorbitantly for cheques.)

For internet banking : BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Bank: Standard Bank,

Branch code: 036009

Account name: Simons Town Civic Association

Branch: Fish Hoek

Account number: 073815209

(Market link savings account)

Please say "Subs, your name, tel. number" as the sender. Please also notify the STCA that you have paid.

New members must give the STCA contact details so as to be put onto the Newsletter mailing list.

Please encourage neighbours and friends to join the STCA

Reporting issues to the City

Issues needing the City's attention can be reported directly to the Sub-council Manager, either by email to desiree.mentor@capetown.gov.za, fax 021- 782 1185, or by dropping off a note at the Sub-council offices at Fish Hoek. Please keep Desiree Mentor informed of progress / or lack of progress so that she can follow-up if necessary. Each report should contain the **Date** (of submitting the request); the **Category** (Roads, Waste Management, Parks, Water supply, Graffiti, etc); a **Detailed description of the problem** (this must include the exact location – eg not just a street name, but opposite which house number, or which end of a beach), and provide the **name and contact details** of the person submitting the request.

STCA Web Page: <http://southerncrossroads.info/ggvnw/>

Emergency numbers:

- Simon's Town Police: **021 786-8646 or 8647**
- Fish Hoek Emergency Control Centre: **021 782 0333, 782-0444**
- Metro Police (Law Enforcement): **021 784 2033**
- Fire and Emergency: **107** from Telkom phones, **112** from cell phones
- Roads, potholes and stormwater: **0860 103 054 (24 Hours)**
- Water/Sewage Emergencies: **0860 103 054 (24 hours)**
- To report people tossing burning cigarette butts into vegetation: **021 424 7715**
- Cable theft, toll free 24/7 hotline: 0800 222 771.
- To report people feeding baboons: **021 957-5937 or 959-5900**
- Baboon emergencies: **071 588-6540** (all hours).
- Metrorail complaints: **0800 65 64 63.**

Queries and complaints can also be logged at the City's Call Centre: Tel: 0860103089 or SMS 31363 (no more than 160 characters) or email: ContactUS@capetown.gov.za

