



# STCA NEWSLETTER

## October 2011

*Compiled by Lesley Shackleton*

### **Simon's Town Spring Festival**

The Simon's Town Spring Festival was a great success. The weather was perfect and residents and visitors alike participated fully in the many events. Steven van der Merwe's Concert was sold out, the Wellness Hall was very popular, the demonstrations and garden tour had rave reviews, and people have been asking for more such community events. The Business Association is keen to keep the momentum going. They are looking at expanding some of the Festival activities into ongoing events to get the message out that we should be "Rediscovering Simon's Town". We are hoping that the first such event will be a Comedy Evening in the Town Hall in November. We are also working on getting more music on Jubilee Square during the summer.

### **Raffle Winner**

The Kindle e-book reader which was raffled to raise funds for the Festival was won by Nicky Lightbody. Look out for the next Business Association Raffle – they are raffling a kayak – tickets are available in The Sweetest Thing, the Pharmacy and other Simon's Town shops. Also a Paul Dixon original oil painting is being raffled in order to raise funds for the completion of the Burgher's Walk Project – tickets are available from Dixon-Reid Fine Art, Pescados and Boulders Beach Lodge and Restaurant.

### **New Years Eve Community Picnic**

Following the success of last year's New Year's Eve Community Picnic on Jubilee Square the Civic Association has decided to repeat the event. Again it will be a closed event, there will be no advertising, but members of civic organisations and churches in Simon's Town will be invited to purchase limited number of tickets available. (Again entry will only be by pre-purchased ticket.) Last year because of the costs (security, cleaning, medical response which is compulsory for an event in the City, music, transporting materials, set up, etc) the event ran at a small loss, so we have decided to charge a bit more, and donate funds should there be an excess to a local charity. We will keep you informed, but be warned, it was very popular last year and the word has spread within our community so we anticipate the tickets will move fast!

### **Recycling Contract**

The STCA and other ratepayers organisations in the Far South were distressed when they heard that Glencairn resident, Evan Saayman, whose locally-based enterprise False Bay Recycling has been responsible for handling our recycling for the past years, is not part of the City's new Waste Management tender. Working with Kim Kruyshaar of Scenic South, the STCA put in an objection on the City's tender process, emphasising employment of local people and the reduction in carbon footprint by sorting and compacting the recycling locally rather than in Kraaifontein. Kim also made a well-researched submission to the Sub Council. To date we have not had an official response around the outcome, but we understand that, although the City allowed the new waste management contractor to liaise with Evan and his other recyclers, this has not resulted in any change and False Bay Recycling will need to get new business if it is to avoid laying off workers.

### **Community Police Forum AGM**

All are invited to attend the CPF AGM which will take place in the Library Hall at 18h00 on Monday 31 October. The CPF aims at promoting communication between SAPS and the community and promoting joint problem solving between the SAPS and the community.

## **Burghers Walk**

The City recently put out a media release (extract below) for information about the completion of the Burghers Walk upgrade.

*The City of Cape Town, in collaboration with SANParks, initiated environmental rehabilitation at Burghers' Walk ... by putting in measures to control soil erosion, removing alien vegetation and planting vegetation indigenous to the area. A critical measure towards the improved management of Burghers' Walk is the installation of a wooden boardwalk.*

*The wooden boardwalk proposed for Burghers' Walk will benefit all by creating formalised, free access for the shared use of the site by the public. The boardwalk will allow for an enjoyable experience for visitors, including dog walkers, while ensuring the necessary protection of the penguins.*

*The City wishes to stress that once Burghers' Walk is opened to the public it is not to be used by organised tourist groups, and would like to appeal to Tour Guides not to bring their groups to Burghers' Walk.*

*It is envisaged that the site will be re-opened for visitors upon the completion of construction of the boardwalk, early in November 2011. We rely on the public's continuing patience and cooperation in an effort to ensure the suitability of the site for public access, while protecting the well-being of the penguins.*

## **Da Gama Park – Welcome Glen Public Meeting on Baboons**

This area continues to suffer negative interactions between baboons and humans and Cllr Simon Liell-Cock called a public meeting to get residents' input and to discuss possible solutions to the problems. Regrettably very few Da Gama Park residents attended. City officials and key NCC Environmental Services personnel were present. A number of innovative solutions were offered by residents and the City is collating all the information and will develop an action plan. A first step has already been taken. A template letter for use by Welcome Glen and Glencairn residents to demand that the City convert their waste trucks to be able to empty bins with padlocks in place has already been distributed via the Welcome Glen and Glencairn Google Groups. A second follow-up meeting is planned for early December. Meanwhile Lorraine Holloway of the STCA is continuing with her mail drops and baboon awareness campaign in the area.

## **Simon's Town Tourism Office**

Simon Liell-Cock, our Ward Councillor has been following up on concerns that the Tourism Office is not serving Simon's Town as effectively as it could be. He has already held one meeting with Mariette Du Toit-Helmbold and they are planning a workshop in the near future in which Simon's Town Businesses will be involved. Interestingly from the information/statistics Simon was given by Cape Town Tourism, it would appear that our information centre is one of the "most active" in the Metro. 56% of the visitors to the office are from overseas with the UK and Europe dominating, and of the local visitors 80% are from the Western Cape. Over the past year they averaged around 600 visitors per month, and almost 10 000 electronic enquiries over the last 14 months. The 2 most popular questions asked of the Office are: Directions to Boulders Beach and Cape Point and What is there to see and do in Simon's Town.

## **Volunteer Wildfire Services**

We hear that the Volunteer Wildfire Services have a fire-fighting vehicle available from Jonkershoek that they are looking at basing it in Simons' Town. What is needed is a lock-up garage in which it can be kept – if you have a spare garage and are prepared to help, please contact Roy Burnie on 021 786-1806.

## **Glencairn Vlei News**

GEESE held a very successful Coastal Clean-up on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October covering the area from the Whale Watching Point/Welcome to Simon's Town Sign down to Shelly Beach and the entire wetland. Two full trailer loads of rubbish were collected and removed by False Bay Recycling. Thanks to all who helped, to Johan Kieser of the Plastics Federation of SA who supplied rubbish bags, to the Fish Hoek Lions who assisted, and to the Viper Lounge who provided tea, coffee and biscuits.

Toad season has come and gone and no Leopard toads were sighted. An article from Canada tells of a similar disappearance of toads there. On a more positive note, the new wooden walkway under the Glen Road Bridge over the Els River is a wonderful addition to the Wetland, enabling the community to access the beach safely. Of concern, however, are the vagrants who have found living under the Wiley Bridge attractive, resulting in ongoing littering.

### **Funds for the School**

Thanks to all who attended Mike Berger's Slide-Film Show. The generous donations have raised a much needed R1835 for the Simon's Town School.

### **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](mailto: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.*

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### **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.) Payments from now on in 2011 will cover both 2011 and 2012.

### **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***

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

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### **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](mailto:ContactUS@capetown.gov.za)