



September 2019

Newsletter

Drakenstein Municipality clever plan to deter copper thieves

In a bid to curb escalating cable theft in the Drakenstein area, [Drakenstein Municipality](#) is replacing copper electricity cables with aluminium ones from September onwards. Amounting to approximately R4 million over the last three years, cable theft in Drakenstein has seen an alarming increase.

Investigations have shown that sophisticated syndicates are responsible for the majority of cable theft in Drakenstein, and that this highly illegal activity spikes over the festive season holiday period as well as during winter time. So far 39 incidents of cable theft have been reported for 2019 alone.

As cable theft causes serious damage to municipal infrastructure and completely unnecessary unplanned power outages and inconvenience to Drakenstein consumers, the Municipality is putting in place a series of measures to deter cable thieves. Firstly, the Municipality will install aluminium cables where possible, which have a much lower resale value than copper. It will also install cable detectors to alert the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Municipality's Law Enforcement division when anyone starts tampering with cables.

Security at Drakenstein's electricity substations will be increased, and pepper spray systems, more lighting and electrified security fencing will be installed to prevent access. The area will also increasingly be monitored (24/7) by closed-circuit television cameras, as part of Drakenstein Municipality's new Smart Safety Network. In addition, the Law Enforcement division will work together with SAPS, farm watches and neighbourhood watches to ensure the culprits are arrested.

The Municipality calls on members of the community to report cases of cable theft to its Reporting Hotline Number: **0800 555 337** or drakenstein@whistleblowing.co.za. Whistle-blowers who give information that leads to the successful criminal prosecution of anyone who committed a criminal act against the Municipality, may be rewarded substantially.

Newly upgraded R44 Gouda road opened



The R44 Gouda Road has a new road surface! On 28 August 2019, Alderman Conrad Poole, Executive Mayor of Drakenstein Municipality, together with Bonginkosi Madikizela, Western Cape Transport and Public Works Minister, officially cut the ribbon to the newly upgraded road. Construction of the R190 million road commenced in June 2017 and its objective was to rehabilitate the Trunk Road 23 Section to make it fit for use by providing a new road surface.

200 Saron-inwoners spog met titelaktes



Meer as 200 huiseienaars van Saron spog met titelaktes nadat dit onlangs deur Raadsheer Conrad Poole, Uitvoerende Burgemeester van Drakenstein Munisipaliteit, en Tertius Simmers, Wes-Kaapse Minister van Menslike Nedersettings, aan hulle oorhandig is. Vir een van die begunstigdes, die 83-jarige Margarieta Smit wat aan 'n rolstoel gebonde is, was dit 'n baie emosionele oomblik, maar ook 'n hoogtepunt toe sy haar titelakte ontvang het.

Municipality's rural school vegetable garden programme grows!

After Drakenstein Municipality successfully established a vegetable garden at Groenberg Primary School in Wellington a few months ago, various other rural schools in Drakenstein are now joining this clever programme.

The Municipality is supplying the schools with basic infrastructure to set up the gardens. Sometimes workers from the Municipality's Community Works Programme assist in establishing gardens, while the Department of Correctional Services also lent a hand by deploying a group of inmates to assist with the vegetable garden at Ronwe Primary School.

As part of the rural school vegetable garden programme, learners at selected schools are becoming part of an environmental programme, encouraging them to become actively involved in protecting our natural resources.

To motivate teachers and learners, the Municipality will soon launch a competition to crown the best new rural school vegetable garden in Drakenstein.



Farewell to the Black Pearl of Paarl



In September, Drakenstein and South Africa sadly had to say goodbye to Chester Williams, a son of its soil and a true and pioneering rugby legend. "As the first citizen of Drakenstein and on behalf of our community and the sport fraternity, I wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the Williams family with the passing of our beloved Black Pearl," said Alderman Conrad Poole, Executive Mayor of

Drakenstein Municipality. "Chester Williams was not only a rugby legend and a nation builder who brought together our people during a pivotal time in South Africa, but he was a father, a family man, a fellow Paarlite and an exceptional role model for our youth. He was, is and will remain a winner. Rest in peace, my friend. Drakenstein will miss you." Williams made 27 appearances for the Boks between 1993 and 2000, scoring 14 tries in that time and was named the SA Rugby Player of the Year in 1994.

Time to explore Drakenstein's tourism gems, explore our heritage

In September, #WeDoTourism! Every year in September, South Africa celebrates Tourism Month to refocus the attention on the bread-and-butter value of domestic tourism, and encourage South Africans to explore the country as a holiday destination. This year's theme is "Tourism and Jobs - a better future for all", mirroring the United Nations World Tourism Organization's 2019 World Tourism Day theme.

Drakenstein Municipality has heeded this call through key training programmes such as the Wine Service Training Programme, Tourism Safety Ambassadors and the Journey to Service Excellence, focusing on ensuring service excellence throughout the tourism value chain. Drakenstein has no shortage of tourism gems and now is a good time to explore our "own backyard".

September is also Heritage Month and time to reconnect with Drakenstein's rich and diverse heritage. So, rediscover a local attraction, picnic at Krismiskamp to reminisce, or wander down our towns' streets to savour the old and new.

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