



**Public parks and the play equipment, plants, trees and water features in them are there for residents and visitors in different communities to enjoy. But, these open spaces are often vandalised, spoiling the fun for everyone.**

Because we're focussing on environmental issues in this edition, we're going to look at what the do's and don'ts are when it comes to waste and how to treat our trees and water sources in public parks with respect and care.

**Under the City's Public Parks by-law:**

Littering and dumping are not allowed and waste must be thrown into containers that are meant for rubbish.

No-one can plant, remove, climb, mark or paint any tree in a public park unless they have the permission of the Director of City Parks.

In a public park, nobody is allowed to misuse, remove, pollute or contaminate any water source, water supply or waste water. The flow of a river must not be interfered with and water can't be drained or redirected from private land.

Keeping our public places clean is important because it's good for the environment and everyone enjoys a pleasant place to relax and play.

**Useful contact numbers:**

**Emergencies:**

- When a life or property is threatened: 021 480 7700 from a cell phone  
OR 107 from a Telkom landline
- Fire Department (General information): 021 590 1900
- The Housing Development Agency Helpdesk: 021 481 2900
- City of Cape Town matters: 0860 103 089
- Eskom Customer Care: 0860 037 566
- Western Cape (WC) Government (general enquiries): 0860 142 142
- WC Social Development Hotline: 0800 22 0250
- Department of Social Development Disability Programme: 021 483 4015
- Master of the High Court (for deceased estates): 021 410 8300
- Childline: 0800 55 555 or 021 762 8198
- Stop Woman Abuse Hotline: 0800 150 150

**Project Updates**

**Joe Slovo**

- » 62 houses are being built in Joe Slovo Phase 3A
- » Two sites are being identified that will be used as Temporary Relocation Areas so that land can be freed up for the construction of new houses
- » Paving and landscaping of the first section of Phase 3A is complete

**Boystown**

- » A legal team will submit an application to the courts to evict the first 35 families so that the installation of services can continue in Phase 2
- » More floodlights will be installed in Phase 2 to help Law Enforcement manage the site at night
- » The design of the boundary wall that will be built along the N2 was approved

**Uhlaziyo lweProjekthi**

**I-Joe Slovo**

- » Izindlu ezingama-62 ziyakhiwa eJoe Slovo kwiSigaba sika-3A
- » Kuchongwe iziza ezimbini eziza kusetyenziswa njengeZindlu zeThutyana khon'ukuze umhlaba ubenokukhululekela ukwakhiwa kwezindlu ezintsha nezixhonywe umphezulu zagqitywa.
- » Ukufakelwa kwePavumente nokulungiswa kweendledlana eziphakathi kwezakhiwo kwicandelo lokuqala leSigaba sika-3A kugqityiwe.

**I-Boystown**

- » Iqela elisemthethweni liza kufaka enkundleni, isicelo sokukhutshwa kweentsapho ezingama-35 zokuqala ukuze ukufakelwa kweenkonzo kube nokuqhubeka kwiSigaba sesi-2.
- » Kuza kufakela izibane ezikhanyisa ngelitha elikhulu zibe zininzi kwiSigaba sesi-2 ukuncedisa aBagunyazisi boMthetho ukuba bakwazi ukulawula kwindawo yokwakha ebusuku.
- » Uyilo lodonga olwenza umda noluzwa kwakhiwa ecaleni kukaHla weNdlala uN2 seluvunyiwe ngokwasemthethweni.



**Residents to benefit from homes built with new materials**

**Recipients of homes in Delft 3 & 5 will be the first to move into houses that have been built using alternative building technologies and not bricks. In this community alone, 1951 of these houses are planned and building has begun on 106 units.**



These new houses are not very different from the ones that are built with bricks. For both, the foundations are laid using reinforced concrete and the roof trusses are very much alike.

The builder would usually use bricks for the walls; but in this case the outside walls are weather and fireproof panels made from chromadeck sheeting lined with polystyrene that fit into a rust-proof steel frame. Rubber strips are used to line the concrete foundation so that water does not leak into the wall when it rains.

The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements says using the new building materials has many benefits for residents, the contractor and the environment.

Some members of the community will be employed to help build the houses and learn skills that they can use to find jobs once the project is completed.

Thanks to the new materials, keeping the home warm in winter takes less electricity and its cooler inside during the summer months; so this technology will help residents save the money that they would usually spend on heating and cooling their homes.

The new materials also cut down on the time it takes to build a house; and the ready-made products are more environmentally friendly because there is less waste to clean up.

The Department will evaluate the use of the alternative building materials in the coming months and decide whether to use it in other projects.

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**The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements has turned to the courts for help with residents who refuse to move from 135 informal structures in Boystown Phase 2.**

The contractor hand-delivered letters asking them to do so, but some residents do not want to live in a Temporary Relocation Area and will only go if they can move straight into a house. Others have not applied for a home and so will not benefit from the project.

Since January this year, the contractor has not been able to install services - like the bus route and sewer and water connections - at Phase 2 and 3. The handover of completed houses to approved recipients will also be delayed.

In the meantime, role players including the Housing Development Agency (HDA), the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, the contractor and various law enforcement agencies have been meeting to discuss what can be done to lessen risks to the contractor.

A section of Phase 2 will be fenced off and lights will be erected so that construction can continue.



**Electricity is expensive and people are always looking for ways to cut down on the amount of power they use.**

The good news is that the City has some useful and basic steps that you can follow to use less electricity, and they won't cost a thing.

- » Turn down the temperature of the geyser to 60° Celsius
- » Switch off appliances and chargers at the wall and pull out the plug
- » When cooking on an electric stove, use a hot plate that is a similar size as the base of the pot or pan
- » Dress warmly or curl up under a blanket instead of turning on a heater

**Power outages:**

If the electricity goes off, the City advises switching-off and unplugging all electrical appliances to avoid them being damaged if there is a power surge when supply returns. Leave a light on in one room so that you know when power is restored.

**The City has this advice for residents to prepare for possible power outages:**

- » Always make sure that your cell phone is charged
- » Ensure that you have enough petrol in your car and money in your wallet. Petrol pumps and ATMs can't work without electricity
- » Keep candles and matches or a torch with fresh batteries in a spot that's easy to remember and reach
- » Invest in a small gas tank to be able to cook and boil water while the power is out

**Reporting faults:**

Who you report electricity faults to, depends on which project you live in.

If you live in Boystown, Delft Symphony or Delft 7-9 and 601 you must contact Eskom on 0860 037 566.

If you live in Joe Slovo and New Rest, contact the City of Cape Town on 0860 103 089 or SMS 31220.

**Whenever you report a fault, remember to have the following information on hand:**

- » Your name and the address
- » Your electricity account number or prepaid meter number
- » What the problem is
- » A contact number

If you SMS your complaint you must also include the details listed above.

Remember to always ask for a reference number so that you can follow up on your enquiry.



# Busisiwe Mteto shows others how to make a difference in their community

**Since 2000, Busisiwe Mteto has been working mainly with girls living in Joe Slovo, Zone 31, teaching them traditional, cultural dance, as well as involving them in gospel choirs.**

"Parents must allow their children to do extra-mural activities from a young age and they must encourage older children to get involved because working to make a positive difference will strengthen the community."

"When I moved into the community, the only activity to keep the youngsters busy was soccer; and that was for the boys. No-one was looking after the girls."

"I've been teaching gospel singing since 2000, and dancing since about 2006. We don't have a hall or anywhere to practice, so I emptied another shack that I have and we sing and dance there."

At the moment Busisiwe teaches about 25 girls, but she says this number changes all the time.

"Because of poverty some parents don't want to bring their children. They expect money in return to be able to feed their children. Sometimes I take the group to town and we perform there to raise money that we bring home and give to their families so that they can buy food."

Busisiwe explained what she believes is the biggest challenge facing children in the community.

"These youngsters have to travel far to go to school. Many of them also don't have uniforms or shoes because their parents can only afford the basics such as food."

Busisiwe says her message to the community during Youth Month is for everyone to realise how important it is to have activities for the children because this will keep them off the streets and out of trouble.



## Make your own compost heap:

Compost is an important part of growing vegetables because it binds the soil and helps your plants grow better.

Making your own compost can be easy and affordable when you use waste from your kitchen. You can use an old tyre with

a board to cover the top or build a box from wooden planks.

**Compost ingredients:**

- » Garden waste – grass cuttings and leaves but not weeds
- » Vegetable and fruit peels, tea leaves or bags and egg shells
- » Paper, cardboard, sawdust or wood shavings

Find a shady spot in your yard and set up your tyre or box, then make a layer of mixed waste that is about 20 centimetres high. Add a bit of water, so that it is damp, but not soaked through and cover it.

Layer the waste like this for a couple of weeks until you reach the top of your container. Finish with a layer of soil, dry grass, leaves or saw dust that will keep bad smells and flies away.

The heap will become warm and moist which means that the waste is beginning to break down and turn into compost. Keep turning it over every few weeks until all the waste has gone and your compost is ready to go into your garden.

## June: Youth Month

The month of June is Youth Month and commemorates the Soweto uprisings of 1976. June 16th marks the day on which we honour the more than 20 000 pupils from Soweto who marched against Bantu education system. In the weeks after this march, about 700 people – many of them youngsters – were killed in violence and clashes with the police.

## It's easy to grow your own vegetables:

**Growing your own vegetables is an affordable way to put healthy food on your table and it will be fun to get the whole family involved.**

A garden the size of a kitchen door can provide enough vegetables to feed a family of four. If your yard is too small or you don't have one, you can grow your vegetables in old tyres, wooden plant boxes or pots.

**Getting started is easy:**

To get your garden started you'll need basic tools like a spade, garden fork, a watering can (or hosepipe) and seeds. Water and compost are also very important.

Set up your vegetable garden in a sunny spot and plant your seeds in rows, making sure that you leave enough space between them for the plants to grow. Once your seeds are planted you must water them regularly but not too often.

It is important that you also check your plants for insects and remove any that you find.

**What to grow in winter:**

There are lots of vegetables that can be grown during winter and used to make soups and stews that will keep your family healthy and their stomachs full.

These include: beetroot, cabbage, carrots, leeks, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, spinach and turnips.

