

BEACON VALLEY

Residents demand action from 'field of terror' owner

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BEACON Valley residents in Mitchells Plain have started a petition to Air Traffic and Navigation Services SOC Limited, the owner of a piece of land in the area (EH 1211) which has been flagged as a crime hub that gangsters have been using as a hideout when committing crimes.

The residents say the owner had disregarded several attempts to deal with what was happening on the land and as a result there had been more gang-related activities.

Over the past six weeks, the piece of land has seen a surge in gang-related violence in which six people were killed.

The residents said they wanted Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) to clear the land of everything, flatten it and secure the property.

Community leader Dean Ram-

joomia said that since 2013, several people had been shot dead and many injured but the identity of the company to which the land belonged was protected at the cost of the people's lives.

"This piece of land has been used to terrorise members in this community, from which tens have been shot and killed over the last several years. This particular piece of land is bordering Metropolitan Road and is adjacent to the Beacon Hill High School, from which several students have already been shot.

"This is a place in the area that cannot be effectively policed because the criminals are using it to hide in. Adjacent to it are a further three ECD (early childhood development) centres where the kids are growing up being exposed to the ruthless, heartless criminal element within this community. The owners of this property think nothing of it," he said.



THE piece of land that's flagged as a crime hub which gangsters allegedly use as a hideout when committing crimes.

Raamjoomia said nothing had been done, other than talks, to hold the owners of the land accountable and responsible for what was happening on their property.

"We are calling out to the owners to assume responsibility for what they have allowed to happen on their property," he said.

ATNS confirmed that it owned Erf 1211 at Metropolitan Street. Spokesperson Percy Morokane said on-site equipment had been decommissioned in 2007 but that the company continued to ensure that the property was well-maintained and secured.

"Since then, we initiated engagements with various stakeholders. As part of the broader ATNS corporate social investment initiatives, it has always been ATNS's wish to explore various options in relation to the land," he said.

Morokane said arrangements had been made for a meeting with relevant stakeholders expected to take place later this month, where long-lasting resolutions on the piece of land would be found.



CULTURE

Heroes of arts and heritage receive awards

STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS a night of glitz and glam after a long interval brought about by the Covid-19 crisis when the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport hosted the Cultural Affairs Awards.

The awards celebrated individuals and organisations who have made a significant contribution in the sectors of arts, culture, language, libraries, archives, heritage and museums across the province.

Stakeholders and nominees joined MEC of Cultural Affairs and Sport Anroux Marais at the Artscape for the awards evening, which also showcased a number of theatre performances.

Africa Melanie and Jabbar Mohamed (director, DeafSA) teamed up as masters of ceremony and entertained the guests during the evening.

Winners on the evening included Siphokazi Jonas (most innovative young artist award), Leslie Kleinsmith (most innovative contribution of a legend to the arts community) and Cape Town Opera (Neville Alexander Award for promotion of multilingualism).

Marais also bestowed ministerial awards on nine recipients, including opera singer Virginia Davids and actor Abduragman Adams.

A full list of all the evening's winners can be seen here: https://www.westerncape.gov.za/assets/departments/cultural-affairs-sport/2022_cultural_affairs_awards_winners.pdf

CHARITY

Cyclists set for 9-day cancer, MS fund-raiser

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ABOUT 30 cyclists, most of whom know what it's like to lose someone to cancer or multiple sclerosis, will cycle from Mossel Bay to Cape Town to raise funds for the treatment and care of these illnesses.

Ryndals resident and dental surgeon Dr Elias Parker said Wheel to Heal was launched to raise funds for charities and had set a target of R2 million.

Parker lost his wife, Mariam, to cancer five years ago.

Parker said it was "an unbelievably painful" experience. Those who had lost someone in this way "know the sense of detachment, it simply makes you grapple with it for not days or months, but for years," he said.

"At the age of 63, Parker got on to a bike for the first time.

The group will leave Cape Town for Mossel Bay on December 3 and cycle from Mossel Bay on December 4, through Galtzorp, Laidismith, Barrydale, Calitzdorp, Worcester, Wellington and then back to Cape Town, a nine-day journey.

In addition to raising the money, we also want to increase awareness. In the rural areas, a lot of people, quite a large percentage of them, die because of very late detection or no detection for that matter. So increasing the awareness and the significance of early detection is as important as providing funds for the treatment of cancer."

The group received sponsorship of 400 food hampers to distribute.

Parker called for the public to sponsor a cyclist per kilometre or donate to the fund. All proceeds will go to Pink Drive and Multiple Sclerosis South Africa.

Wheel to Heal secretary Anil Lalla lost his wife to cancer seven years ago.

The Penlyn Estate resident and pharmacist said there was almost no one in the group that had not been affected directly or indirectly by cancer.

"A lot of cancer goes undetected. By the time it is actually seen at hospital level, patients are already at stage four of whatever cancer they have and are told you have three months to live, or six months.

Our focus is on early detection of cancer. And if we can detect cancer at stage 1 or even pre-cancerous stages, then we can intervene and we can do something about it."

For more information, phone 082 493 9331.

EDUCATION

Perivale Primary's delight at new building

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EDUCATION MEC David Maynier officially opened the new Perivale Primary School in Lotus River.

The school's new buildings opened after two and a half years of construction.

The replacement school, at a cost of R86 million, added an extra 520 places for learners and is able to accommodate 1 240 learners.

The site of the old school has now become the new sports field, with the new buildings constructed alongside the original building.

The project started in 2020 but was subject to delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic and intimidation of contractors.

"I'm very concerned about delays and disruptions to school builds in general. We just simply cannot afford these delays, we have to get these schools built as soon as possible. I'm going to take on anybody that delays a school build in the Western Cape," Maynier said.

The Western Cape Education Department aims to spend R830 million more on infrastructure this year, a 50.6% increase in spending on infrastructure in public ordinary schools.

"What I want to do is not only replicate what we've done here, but actually increase the number of replacement schools that we put in place every year and possibly even



CHILDREN play at the newly-opened Perivale Primary School's new building in Lotus River. | AYANDA NDAMANE African News Agency (ANA)

double that rate over the next three years," Maynier said.

Principal Zaahier Jacobs said the original building was more than 60 years old, with evident signs of erosion.

"The building infrastructure was very dilapidated and through the new

school building, it led to new great opportunities for the development of the community," Jacobs said.

The building consists of 36 classrooms and specialised classrooms, library, science laboratory, resource centre and a computer lab.

Sports facilities added to the new

building include a multi-purpose field for soccer and rugby, and a tarmac area for sports such as netball and basketball.

"For us as educators, our job is to sell hope to our learners but now we can sell hope to our learners in a dignified manner," Jacobs said.

AUTOMATION

New thermal body sensors at Blaauwberg pedestrian crossings

STAFF REPORTER

THE City of Cape Town's urban mobility directorate has introduced thermal sensors at four pedestrian crossings in Blaauwberg.

The innovative project, the first of its kind in South Africa, was implemented to pilot a new initiative by the directorate to improve traffic flow.

Urban mobility Mayo member Rob Quintas accompanied by members of the City's portfolio committee on urban mobility visited the crossings located along Marine Drive opposite Milky Lane; Otto du Plessis Drive opposite Seal Road; along Otto du Plessis Drive at Shell Road, and along

Otto du Plessis Drive close to Hill Road, opposite Doodles, on Tuesday as part of their Transport Month oversight tour.

Commenting on the project, Quintas said: "We often see that vehicles are queuing at red traffic signals long after pedestrians have crossed the road. "With this innovative system, the thermal sensors at pedestrian crossings are used to detect whether there is any pedestrian movement."

The thermal sensors will operate with an all-around detection sensor that uses a thermal image to detect pedestrians and bicycles. Should the pedestrian move from the detection zone before the pedestrian cycle is acti-

ated, the request would be cancelled, allowing vehicles to continue without stopping.

Quintas also said that the directorate was hoping to see the thermal sensors effectively reduce red light violations and the number of frustrated drivers on our roads.

"The innovative system will also assist with traffic flow and pollution from idling vehicles. A huge bonus is that this system is less prone to vandalism; we often find the push-buttons at pedestrian crossings are jammed with sticks or broken," he said.

"A thermal pedestrian crossing does not require push-buttons, seeing that it operates automatically. Officials

will keep on monitoring the system and make changes as needed.

"The system is not affected by low lighting conditions or even in total darkness as they are using thermal imaging to detect presence. Thus, it provides reliable detection 24/7 and works well in all weather conditions."

"I'm very impressed with the urban mobility officials who investigated and piloted the system. It is good to know we have staff who are always looking for innovative solutions to improve road safety and mobility.

"We will look into implementing the sensors at other locations across the city in future, depending on suitability and funding," Quintas said.

MARATHON

Groote Schuur staff set to run for surgeries

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AROUND 50 Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) staff with friends and family will take part in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon this weekend to raise funds for the hospital's Surgical Recovery Project.

At the end of 2021, there were more than 6 000 patients awaiting essential surgery at the hospital.

Groote Schuur Hospital Trust (GSH) executive director Kristy Evans said: "The Covid-19 pandemic brought an unparalleled crisis to the healthcare system globally.

"Surging waves of critically ill patients necessitated dramatic restructuring of health care facilities and massive internal redistribution of health care resources.



TWO of the Groote Schuur Hospital staffers ready for the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon.

"Tertiary academic elective surgical care, already a crucial and scarce resource in the public sector, had ground to a halt."

The Surgical Recovery Project was established as a direct response

to addressing the backlog. The project had set out to perform 1 500 catch-up elective surgeries over the first year of the project, with the plan of continuing the following two years to ensure the backlog was complete.

To date, the GSH has raised R12.5 million, with R2.5 million still required to ensure its target of R15 million for the first year of the project is reached.

Each runner has been requested to raise R10 000, the cost of one surgery within the project.

Surgeries performed are those on the hospital waiting list, such as cataract surgeries, hip and knee replacements, cancer diagnostic surgeries, etc.

Donations can be made through the Trust's GivenGain campaign.

SEA POINT
CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Notice Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Sea Point City Improvement District NPC (SPCID) will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the year's activities and planning for 2023/24.

Date: 9 November 2022
Time: 10h30
Venue: Protea Hotel Marriott Arthurs Road Sea Point

Resolutions presented at the Members meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the SPCID. This membership is available free of charge to all owners of non-residential and/or residential property within the SPCID footprint, but they must be registered before 2 November 2022.

For further information, documentation and how to register go to www.seapointcid.co.za, e-mail wayne@seapointcid.co.za or call 021 434 1234