



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday, 11 May 2012



## FOUND

### SIAMESE CAT –

If anyone is missing a female Siamese (found on Allan rd.), Saturday approx. 2 years old very

friendly chocolate point, she is at my clinic. Contact Hanno Sierts on Tel: (012) 6619636

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ZONK'IZIZWE

We now have a copy of the EIA on Zonki'izizwe. It has been posted on the Website under the Documents Library. The hard copy is huge.

We understand that Old Mutual are now eager to commence on the project – the internal roads will come first - but it may be a year before any activity is seen.

## GENERAL PROBLEMS IN GLEN AUSTIN

Too many times I get complaints such as 'What about this pothole, what about this long grass, what about my neighbour who is just building without permission, what about that water leak, what about those leaning trees . I reply with "Have you reported it". The answer is always "NO". GARA cannot report it for you, but we can follow up when you have a reference number.

## FREE PARKING FOR PENSIONERS BOULDERS SHOPPING CENTRE CANCELLED AND REINSTATED POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Whilst exiting the underground parking at Boulders on Friday last, I was handed a letter that as from 2<sup>nd</sup> May all free parking for Pensioners was cancelled.

They tell us in the letter that the approx. 700 pensioners registered with them received R150,000 free parking over the three years it has been in operation. As only the first 30 minutes would be free, it is impossible to do any transactions in shops, Telkom, the Post Office, Virgin Active, banks etc. in that time, so it would cost Pensioners R6 extra each time they visited the centre.

I personally complained to the Management Centre of Boulders and as my telephone call was not returned I emailed Broll who own the Centre who phoned me back and listened to my request to rethink their decision and I wrote to the Midrand Reporter about this penny pinching as the paying section of the Boulders car park is always 90% empty.

I popped into the Centre Management office yesterday afternoon and the Manager from Broll was there and in a nutshell, they have listened to the complaints from myself and other pensioners and decided to reinstate the free parking for Pensioners.

The lesson here is like the E Tolling, complain by phone, by email, by letter and then perhaps the ant can push the tree over.





## APPEAL FROM PATROL GLEN AUSTIN

As we all know our safety within our homes and our surroundings is up to the property owners. Our crime rates

and stats have been drastically reduced due to the dedicated few that tirelessly patrol our streets nightly week after week whilst the rest relax within their homes content with the knowledge that there are people out there keeping them safe. Once again we call on people to volunteer their time and join us in patrolling our streets and keeping all our families safe and sound. It is also a good platform to get to know the community so as if and when the need arises help is just a call away.

Community radios are available to all GARA members at a negotiated rate with the supplier depending on the quantities ordered. We encourage all GARA members to purchase a radio to keep in contact with the community in the event of an emergency.

Regards,  
Steven Johnstone  
Chairman Sector 1 CPF.  
GARA Safety and Security.  
[stevejo@webmail.co.za](mailto:stevejo@webmail.co.za)



## FROM THE POTHOLE BRIGADE

Dear GLEN AUSTIN RES ASSOCIATION

We are writing to you because you have in the past used the services of The Dial Direct Pothole Brigade.

We have some unfortunate news to share with you – news that will no doubt disappoint many motorists in Gauteng.

After long and careful deliberation, we have made the difficult decision to disband our highly-successful and value-adding Pothole Brigade.

We have not come to this decision lightly and it is by no means a reflection of the Brigade's relevance, performance or success.

We understand that Gauteng road users continue to be plagued by an ever-escalating number of potholes however, the initiative, which cost us R1 million a month to maintain, got entangled in red tape and tender processes that never materialised.

With our efforts to deliver our pothole filling service where it's most-needed being thwarted by the authorities, we had to carefully weigh-up the true costs of this initiative not only financially but to our brand as well.

At the end of the day, The Dial Direct Pothole Brigade cannot be sustained without the buy-in and support of government.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support. The Dial Direct Pothole Brigade was launched so that we could give something back to you, the community, and together we were able to repair over 50 000 potholes in and around Gauteng.

Please note that motorists using roads currently included in the Brigade's scope of repair will have until the end of May 2012 to report potholes for repair. The services of The Dial Direct Pothole Brigade will officially be suspended at the end of June 2012.

### The Dial Direct Pothole Brigade Team

## Important Numbers



**SAPS**  
SAPS Sector 1 Vehicles -  
  
Sector 1 Commander:  
Glen Austin, President Park

**JMPD**  
Flying Squad  
Fire and Ambulance  
JMPD Call Centre  
Midrand JMPD Station

JMPD AARTO  
Email: [info@jmpdaarto.org.za](mailto:info@jmpdaarto.org.za)  
Fraud Unit  
Crime Intelligence Unit

Family Violence, Child  
Protection and Sexual  
Offence Unit

Serious and Violent  
Crime (Murder and Robbery)

Report unfair conduct by  
Police

**Numbers**  
071 675 6108  
071 675 6109  
079 877 6528

**Numbers**  
10111  
10177  
(011) 378 5918  
(011) 237 5030  
(011) 237 5004  
(011) 314 2720  
(011) 838-5401/5

(011) 932 0040  
(011) 986 9498

(011) 982 7774

(011) 986 9000

(012) 320 0431

**By-Law Unit**  
All By-Law related  
Complaints

Hawkers & Street Trading

Urban Management

Waste Management

Illegal Signage

Parks Control

Illegal Connections

**Numbers**  
  
(011) 490 1630  
(011) 490 1860  
(011) 490 1707  
082 559 3855  
082 551 5374  
(011) 490 1744  
(011) 490 1777  
082 779 1361  
(011) 490 1696/  
(011) 490 1509  
082 417 5701  
(011) 490 1547  
(011) 490 1780  
082 771 1326  
(011) 490 1684  
083 399 2835  
072-685-8720  
(011) 472 6539  
082 803 1158  
(011) 490 1777  
072 156 4783



## PLANET AWARENESS DAY LAST WEEKEND

Me and 'Him' went to this which was advertised in my Newsletter of 27<sup>th</sup> April. Only a small turnout but a very interesting day. There were talks on Bees, Biodiversity, Herbs, Environmental Microorganisms, and solar energy. Plants, homemade bread and cakes and herbs were on sale at very reasonable prices.

It was the first time I have seen a home converted to Biogas. After a talk on the system, we went into Helen's kitchen and saw lights, a cooker, water heater and rice/steamer all run on bio gas. Besides the concrete underground dome system you can also have big industrial plastic bags where excess/or biogas can be stored. You do need a supply of manure, people poo, grass cuttings and household waste but this is enough to heat the water, run a fridge and cook with.

Also a thing I have never seen – an outside Rocket shower. I will try and explain this. There are two steel tubes, one inside another. The theory is you turn on the valve for the cold water to come into the tube, light a tin full of shavings with a tissue soaked in paraffin underneath the tube, and whooooooooooooooooooooosh the heat goes up the tube which does look exactly like a rocket with 3 legs and a shower head on the top, and you get hot

water for about 7 minutes.

With the bees it was a very interesting talk about their lifestyle and apparently America is having big problems and losing their bees. When the almond trees come into blossom for only two weeks of the year, there is a big industry of transporting thousands of hives to the Almond tree fields from all over the area

Bees do not like being moved and the drumming sound on the road of the big transport lorries sends them all doo lally and the heat is not right inside the hive and so when they reach their destination, most of them are dead. It is called Colony Collapse Disorder. Pesticides are also causing the death of bees and some species are now extinct in the whole of America and three are extinct in the UK.

It has got so bad in Europe that hives are being put on public buildings like the Eiffel Tower and roofs of office blocks in the centre of London. Paris has been declared a pesticide free city. We need bees! Without bees we also may become extinct as we will not have food.

Needless to say 'Him' is now thinking of bees and I do have an email address if anyone else is interested.

## WEBSITE

*The website has been revamped and we request that all members reregister so you can log onto the section of the site not available to the general public. Please give us feedback what you think about it.*

Information provided by:  
Christine Robinson, GARA Secretary



Glen Austin Residents Association

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URL: [www.glenaustin.co.za](http://www.glenaustin.co.za)

That's it from me this week.

### Remember:

**Life has no brakes. All you can do is steer, and enjoy the scenery.**