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From Committee

The GARA web site is an accessible hub where all important contact details for security, environmental matters and CoJ are listed - amongst many other features.

We invite you to keep an eye on <https://www.glenaustin.co.za/>

Please forward this newsletter to non-members of GARA residing in the Glen Austin Area. To be added to the Newsletter Mailing List, please send an email to info@glenaustin.co.za.

Revised GARA Constitution

A revised constitution for GARA
As the GARA Executive Committee had identified various flaws in the current

Constitution it reviewed and revised the current constitution over the last 2½ years. A draft of the revised GARA Constitution as well as a copy of the current constitution is available on the GARA website for review and comment by GARA Members (www.glenaustin.co.za/). Please submit any comments and suggestions to info@glenaustin.co.za.

Speeding In Glen Austin

Glen Austin is still a unique area where many families are striving to maintain a rural lifestyle. Families with young children and their pets are often seen walking along the Glen Austin roads, so also older folk trying to maintain some fitness. Residents on horseback use the roads and as well as livestock.

The speed limits within the enclosed Glen Austin area is clearly indicated as 40km/h and the rest of Glen Austin between 40 and 60km/h. Yet there are numerous residents or visitors to the area who totally disregard the speed limits and travel at high speeds through Glen Austin in total disregard to pedestrians, animals or the inhabitants.

Please respect the safety of Glen Austin residents, young and old, and keep to the designated speed limits.

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GARA Radio Network

During the early 1990's Glen Austin had a thriving 2 way radio network with over 165 subscribers. GARA still has a 2 way radio license for 2 frequencies. The system used to work extremely effectively, with subscribers assisting anybody calling for help on the 2 way radio network in a fast and efficient manner. The mere fact that a number of community members / radio network subscribers would converge at the home requesting assistance reduced crime at that time and ensured a safer neighbourhood. Community members were always quicker to respond than the private security companies or police. Currently there are only 5 active radio network members left. The radio network works during power outages and when cell phone coverage is down. There are no costs involved besides the acquisition of a 2 way radio. Any feedback to info@glenausting.co.za regarding the value, continuation or discontinuation of the radio network by GARA would be appreciated.

Get Involved!

Our community is only as strong and safe as the residents make it. It would be great if you can volunteer skills and or time that could support the area and the work of the committee. We are specifically needing help in the following areas:

CoJ by-laws

Assisting the GARA Committee
With the rise of legal (and illegal) developments, building, businesses, land use, etc impacting our environment GARA is urgently seeking a person who is willing to assist the committee in addressing these issues. If you are able and willing to assist please contact GARA on info@glenaustin.co.za. Any help will be much appreciated.

Service delivery issues/requests

Dear Residents,

I hope you are well.

Here are contact details to report and log your service delivery issues/requests.

Remember it's the responsibility of the Municipality to supply the services to residents and the Councillor's role is monitoring and oversight in collaboration with the Ward Committee Member responsible for the particular portfolio.

PS: Please always ensure you have a reference number when escalating to the groups and Councillor.

City Power

This includes:

1. Electricity outages

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2. Metre issues
3. Street lights
4. Prepaid/Smart metering.

Call: 0860 562 874 option 2.
Call: 011 375 5555 option 2.

Using web portal

<https://citypower.mobi>

or you can download the FREE app from playstore "My Citypower"

Twitter: @CityPowerJhb

Joburg Water

This includes:

1. Sewage leaks and overflows
2. Burst water pipes
3. Replacing damaged metres
4. Fire Hydrants valves

Call: 0860 562 874

SMS line: 076 333 5052

Email: customer@jwater.co.za

Twitter: @JHBWater

Joburg Road Agency

This includes:

1. Pothole repairs
2. Storm water drains
3. Re-instatement a
4. Road markings
5. Road signage
6. Traffic signals

7. Pavements (Hard surface)

Call: 0800 002 587 or
0860 562 874 option 5

Email: hotline@jra.org.za

Twitter: @MyJra

City Parks

This includes:

1. Tree pruning/cutting
2. Grass cutting
3. Municipal pools
4. The Joburg Zoo
5. Libraries
5. Recreation centres
6. Joburg open spaces
7. City owned Parks

Call: 0860 562 874 option 0

Email:

vmkhize@jhbcityparks.com

pkubheka@jhbcityparks.com

wafrika@jhbcityparks.com

Fallen trees: 011 712-6600

Or trees@jhbcityparks.com

Pikitup

This includes:

1. Refuse removal (Household)
2. Clearing public bins
3. Illegal dumping

Call: 0860 562 874 option 4

Illegal dumping WhatsApp to 082 779
1361

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Emergency Services / JMPD

This includes:

1. Fires
2. Noise control
3. Ambulances services
4. By law infringements
5. Traffic enforcement and licensing

Call JMPD 011 758 9620 or 011 375 5918 and state emergency

Call Fire: (011) 375-5911

***Billing Queries ***

This includes:

1. Billing related matters
2. Statement inquiries
3. Payment arrangements

Call: 0860 562 874 option 1

Email: regionArevenue@joburg.org.za

Municipal statement www.joburg.org.za

Under e-services, other queries must be logged at a walk-in centre

***Health Related Issues ***

This includes:

1. Health department
2. Environmental health

Call: 011 375 5555 and ask for Environmental Health

***Hijacked Properties ***

This includes:

1. Hi jacked property
2. Abandoned properties

Contact the Group Forensics and Investigation Services (GFIS) on 080 000 2587

*** Building Control***

This includes

1. Town planning
2. Building inspector
3. Plans
4. Urban management
5. Zoning

Email: ComplaintsPLE@joburg.org.za

Kind regards

Ward 92 Cllr

Charmaine Ngoepe

Social Platforms

There are several active WhatsApp chat groups for our community, including small street security groups, area-wide security groups, chat groups and buy/swop/sell groups. Kindly contact the admin to be added to any group/s:

SOS Rory Munton

GA Community Chat

Robert Southey

Midrand Buy & Sell

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Amanda Leeann James

Crime Stats Only

Joe Burrows

GA Agri Co-op

Theo Heyman

GA Support Local

Saabir Karim

Before you join any of these groups, please familiarise yourself with the group's rules.

Send your name, address, cell number and the name of the group(s) you wish to join to info@glenaustin.co.za, and we will forward your details to the relevant admins.

News & Events

Glen Austin Community Market

Corner Olifantsfontein Road and Old Pretoria Road, Midrand



Every Saturday from 9AM to 2PM

Come join the fun. Contact Mathijs on 082 801 9555 to exhibit. See our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Glen.Austin.Village.Community.Market>

Environmental News

How to care for your Septic Tank

A septic tank is a living filter that separates scum and solids, and pre-treats wastewater before it flows out into the drain-field for final purification. It takes 24 to 48 hours for this process. Even a good system not cared for may become a neighbourhood health hazard and an expensive problem. Failed systems may cause ground and surface water pollution and costly property damage. It is important to maintain your septic system.

Don't put these into your system:

- Fats or grease
- Motor oils or fuels
- Disposable diapers
- Coffee grounds, egg shells, nut shells
- Filter tip cigarettes
- Sanitary napkins, tampons or condoms
- Paper towels or rags (flushable wipes)
- Dental floss
- Cat litter
- Paints or chemicals



These materials kill the bacteria, won't decompose and will fill the septic tank and will plug the system.

Don't poison your septic tank

Drain cleaners, floor cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, paints solvents, waxes, polishes, coating or strippers may destroy important bacteria in the septic tank and contaminate ground and surface water. Avoid any product that targets the killing of germs, as germs is what is keeping your septic tank operational.

Rather buy products specifically marked as safe for septic tanks or use diluted white vinegar and bicarb of soda (baking soda) as cleaning agents.

See this web site link for instructions on how to use vinegar and bicarb as cleaners in the house:

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/cleaning-with-baking-soda-and-vinegar/>

Various cleaning products homeowners use can harm the good bacteria in a septic system. Avoid using chemicals like bleach around the house. Rather use bio-degradable products like "Yemvelo", which can be bought from Takealot.

How Do I Clean the Toilet Bowl With a Septic System?

It's best to stick with natural products that won't kill the vital, waste-eating microorganisms that live in your septic

tank. Check the labels on cleaning products for a septic-safe label, or use a home-made mix of vinegar and bicarb powder. (See above for link to instructions.) While it might be tempting to resort to the products that are advertised to kill 99.9 percent of all germs, these products can harm your septic system by killing the helpful bacteria. Non-chemical cleaning products are better for the environment, which includes the drain field of your septic tank.

How does a septic tank work?

Septic tanks usually have 2 chambers (3 chambers are better). The waste is flushed into the first one where the anaerobic process (driven by good bacteria) starts digesting the waste. As the tank fills up an overflow system allows mainly fluids, solids in suspension and some of the smaller particles of waste to overflow into the second chamber. Here the anaerobic process continues to digest the waste into water and gas. The intention of this design is that the overflow from here into the soak-away or French drain should only be clear fluids. This water then seeps away into the ground through this drain.

How to look after your septic tank

Adding specific bacteria, like found in "Bio-Activator" will speed up the anaerobic process in both chambers of the septic tank so that the waste is



efficiently digested into water and gas. The results of this process will then flow into the soak-away/French drain and also clear the blockage here so that the water can seep away freely. Unless the septic tank or soak-away/French drain has physically collapsed there is no need to build a new one or to have it pumped out ever again.

What is Bio-Activator?

Bio-Activator consists of naturally occurring micro-organisms attached to organic compost.

It supplements and stimulates the bacteria in situ so that the waste quickly decomposes. In the process it prevents the generation of smells. When the smells are gone then the flies and cockroaches are no longer attracted. All the components in Bio-Activator are organic and originate from South Africa, therefore proudly South African!

Environmentally friendly

Bio-Activator is entirely natural and it does not contain any hazardous or poisonous chemicals or enzymes.

This product will reduce the incidence of pathogens entering the ground water system.

The soil and the ecology in general will benefit from this product.

Benefits for toilets

The lifespan of septic tanks can be extended almost indefinitely depending on the amount of rubbish such as plastic packets, nappies, sanitary towels, etc. already in the pit/trench and also as long as no more is thrown in.

The regular (quarterly) use of this product will prevent the level of the waste from rising and the pit/trench will not get full. It should therefore not be necessary to dig another pit again while it is being treated with Bio-Activator and if no more rubbish is thrown into the toilet.

There should never be any reason for a septic tank to be emptied with a vacuum tanker if correctly treated. Regular treatments with Bio-Activator and good housekeeping practices can make this a reality.

(See advert for Bio-Activator in the Local Business Support section below.)

Security Updates

SECTOR 1 CRIME FORUM (CPF)

We have a small number of people patrolling the area on a regular basis, if you can assist by joining the SCF, it would help tremendously in relieving some pressure off from these volunteers.

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You may contact:

Joe Burrows 082 551 1580 or
Francesco Painino 079 495 0663.

Sector 1 covers the area from Allandale Road in the South, N1 South from Allandale to Corporate Park North, Randjesfontein, Glen Austin, President Park, Halfway House Central, plus all businesses within this boundary.

We have one of the busiest sectors in relation to crime, especially business robberies, due to the large no of companies in the sector, Assault GBH and common robbery of pedestrians, these are mostly recorded in Halfway House Central, though they do occur in number in Glen Austin and President Park but are generally not reported nor cases opened.

We would like to encourage all residents to get onto the social platforms, especially the Emergency group. This group is aimed at reporting only IMMEDIATE emergencies, please don't spam it with non-relevant messages. Street groups are there to receive and give information. Please report all incidents, fence cutting, theft, suspicious vehicles, people. All this information is used and reported to Saps and for planning patrols.

When reporting vehicles and people, we need as much detail as possible and

registrations of vehicles, direction of travel etc.

Tel number for SAPS

Charge office 011 347 1602 (does not work during load shedding)

Relief Commander 071 675 6114

Sector Vehicle 071 675 6109
10111

For full breakdown of monthly crime statistics reported in GA, visit the GARA web site at:

<https://www.glenaustin.co.za/>

Street Security Groups

There are small WhatsApp chat groups for specific roads in our area. Each road (or section of the road) is coordinated by a street captain Here is a list of the groups and their admins: (Also available on the GARA web site at:

<https://www.glenaustin.co.za/>)

Allan Road

Christine Vosloo 072 455 6325

Austin Road

Theo Heymans 082 346 5337

Belvedere Road

Derek Smart 082 654 1222

Cilliers Road

Tai Gould 082 713 0544

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Dale Road

Pam Ashe-Pretorius 084 404 6610

Donovan Street

Glenda James 072 923 4381

Douglas Road

(Western side inside the boomed area)

Candice Guilford 083 962 5341 -

(Eastern side outside the boomed area)

Saabir Karim 083 410 5600 -

George Road

Liezel Bekker 071 768 4030

Graham Road

Julia Baker 060 737 9211

Hampton Road

Rachelle Luus 073 452 0627

Milner Road

Julia Baker 060 737 9211

Olifantsfontein Road

(From Allan to Hampton)

Judy Bird 083 266 8187

(Remainder of Olifantsfontein)

Candice Guilford 083 962 5341

Pitzer Road

Robert Southey 082 821 7313

Potgieter Road

Mandla 0644950302

Rosie's Place

Dale Engelbrecht 083 560 3980

van Riebeeck Road

(Northern side of Olifantsfontein towards Midstream)

Sharon Tiepolt 082 565 6552

(Southern side of Olifantsfontein towards the pan)

Wessel Oosthuizen 061 195 3744

We encourage all community members (owners, residents and tenants) to join their local street security group to be updated on local security matters.

Announcements / Feedback

We invite all our community members to give us feedback on this newsletter. Feel free to suggest topics, events, articles to be included as a once-off or as a regular feature. Send us an e-mail at: info@glenaustin.co.za

Contributions to the GARA Newsletter
Contributions from our Members to the GARA Newsletter will greatly assist our editor. Any article, long or short, that can provide hints regarding any household or garden or vegetable patch items, how-to-do hints, historical snippets about Glen Austin, or anything else that may be of interest to the Glen Austin community would be truly appreciated.

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The GARA newsletter also caters for Members, free of charge, to advertise any products or services from their home industries and legal local businesses.

Please send any contribution to info@glenaustin.co.za.

Support Local

We have opened up the GARA Newsletters to advertise local businesses. Fully paid up GARA members are entitled to one free placement per newsletter edition. Advertising fees for non-GARA members is R180 per newsletter placement for standard size and R250 for quarter page as described below. (At an annual fee of R350, why not join GARA and advertise the whole year for free? Join here: <http://www.glenaustin.co.za/>)

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Important Contact Details - Print and keep!

GARA Web Site	www.glenaustin.co.za
GA Sector 1 SAPS Patrol Vehicle	071 675 6109
Midrand SAPS:	011 347 1600 / 02
Relief Commander	071 675 6114
Ambulance ER24:	084 124
Ambulance Netcare:	082 911
CoJ Ambulance & Fire Brigade:	011 375 5911
Crisis Control (ALL EMERGENCIES):	011 254 0888
Johannesburg Metro Police:	011 375 5911
ESKOM Fault Reporting: Alfred the Chatbot:	086 003 7566 or https://alfred.eskom.co.za/chatroom
Lifeline:	0800 012 322
Midrand SPCA – office hours: After hours emergencies only:	011 265 9935 or 0834411464 / 5
SA Poisons Info Centre:	021 689 5227
Environmental Health Services:	011 226 8300
Pikitup:	010 0550 5990 or info@pikitup.co.za
Illegal Dumping:	080 872 3342
GARA:	071 054 6362 or info@glenaustin.co.za
CoJ Call Centre:	011 375 5555 or 0860 563 874
CoJ Region A Customer Service Centre:	011 230 3605 or 300-15 th Avenue, Midrand
Ward 92 Councilor:	Charmaine Ngoepe Charmain4change@gmail.com
CoJ Potholes Stormwater Drains:	hotline@jra.org.za
COJ Anti-Fraud Hotline:	0800 002 587