



Since 1975

DE WATERKANT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 821, GREEN POINT, 8051

the village newsletter



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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE DE WATERKANT CIVIC ASSOCIATION



Hi, fellow De Waterkanters!

Compliments of the almost-over season, and I hope 2015 is a wonderful year for you, and for our Village as a whole.

As we build up to the AGM on March 17, I'd urge you to join the

DWCA if you aren't already a member, or to remember to renew your membership if you are. In terms of our Constitution, membership needs to be confirmed one calendar month before the AGM in order for you to be a full participant with voting rights, so time is running out. [Click here](#) for details on how to join.

Until now, we have run two databases: residents, and DWCA members. All residents have benefited from a general alert service regarding need-to-know things like events, road closures, etc. As our social media streams pick up, we'll use Facebook for general alerts, and communicate directly only with members. The best reason to be a member of the DWCA, of course, is that being an active citizen is its own reward, but see right for the rest of our value proposition.

If you're keen to get involved, please consider standing for election to the management committee – below are details of the current MC.

- Ian, Chair of DWCA

ROLE	MAIN CONTACT
CHAIR	Ian McMahon chair@dewaterkantcivicassociation.co.za Alternate: Elda Storck
SECRETARY	Francesco Uys Rootenberg; alternate Heather Parker
TREASURER	Theo Nortje
CITY LIAISON	Annelien Loots
NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT	Deon de Wet
COMMUNICATION & PR	Heather Parker
MEMBERSHIP	Elda Storck
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Elda Storck
NOISE, EVENTS, FILM SHOOTS	Francesco Uys Rootenberg

WHY JOIN DWCA?

The DWCA was set up to promote and safeguard the interests of all those who live in, or are otherwise invested in, this uniquely beautiful and historic part of Cape Town. Find the DWCA's constitution [here](#).

These are some examples of support enjoyed only by DWCA members:

- Need to deal with the City? The management committee knows its way around – we access our networks to help you find your way to the right official.
- Nervous about surveyors / architects pacing your neighbours' properties? The City is obliged to send you building plans – but the DWCA provides a safety net by sending you electronic copies of plans submitted by your neighbours.
- Need to know anything about the Village? We have the answers, or we know who does.
- Paid-up members are eligible to sit on the management committee.
- Paid-up members may vote, which is good to know as the long process of finding solutions to local parking dilemmas draws to a climax, and the residents' parking debate escalates.

HOOK IN TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA STREAMS



coming from etc.

To stay in touch, advertise your events and access the wisdom of the community, [join our Facebook group](#) and add your posts about upcoming events, incidents in our neighbourhood that need sharing – in fact anything you'd tell your neighbour over the fence!

Also, for instant in-touchness, join our Whatsapp group: mail feedback@dewaterkantcivicasociation.com with your mobile number and we'll add you. It's a quick way of connecting, obtaining advice, sharing information, finding out where that party noise is

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Under discussion at the last management committee meeting:

OH RATS!

Our stormwater drains and subterranean passages are well over a century old, and the more stylish rats of our city, like the more stylish citizens, tend to move here.

We've been alerted to a number of rat sightings in the Loader Street area, so we've called on the City of Cape Town to move the rats out. If you yourself have anything more than the occasional ratty encounter, please alert us, so that we can add that information to the information we've already shared with the City.

We're also aware that the rummaging in dustbins by street people doesn't help when foodstuffs are left out on the street, so this is a call to play your part by putting your bins out only on collection day. We've also asked the CID to pick up on this, and have their patrol teams intervene.

SUMMER GROWTH:

Not quite as startling as rats, but still a nuisance: this is the time of the year when a forest of weeds will grow on our pavements if they've not been dealt with early. There's a particularly bad example on the corner of Jarvis and De Smidt that we've asked the City Improvement District people to address.

Why do we care? Well, the "[Broken Window Theory](#)" applies: maintaining an urban environment that is neat and well tended is a discouragement to petty crime, vandalism and more. If there are weeds, litter is more likely, for instance; if there is weeds and litter, street people feel the area to be unwatched, and will be more likely to settle in, and so on. Keep an eye on your own pavement area – if we all do our part, it's easy to keep things looking gorgeous.

GAY PRIDE

We're looking forward to the colour and spectacle of Gay Pride, taking place this year on February 28.

How will this affect you?

All the streets below Somerset will be blocked off for the party, and the procession itself will take up half of Somerset Road for a couple of hours from about noon.

THOSE DE SMIDT STEPS:

Yes! The building team is in place! The steps are definitely happening!

BUILDING ISSUES:

You might have been aware that for quite some time, there has been a strip on Dixon, originally dug up for the installation of cables on a building site, where the road surface is destroyed. It's one of those things where no-one really knows who is

RIP JOHN GRAY

John Gray, who died on January 12 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, was a stalwart not only of the De Waterkant community for many years, but also of the Green Point civic group. Many of us have clear and fond memories of John, thick file under his arm and a plethora of facts at his fingertips, standing up at meetings and patiently reading the riot act. As friends and neighbours, and as a community, it is our loss. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his close friends and family.

responsible – the owner, for not instructing the builder to fix things? The builder, for not taking the initiative? The City Council, for not stepping in?

And then there is the (other) builder who blocked off first one, then two, and now three of our precious parking bays in the Waterkant/Napier area. We're not sure that either the neighbours or the Council were consulted about this, and again – who should step up to take responsibility?

As a committee, we will be investigating these and similar issues that relate to boundaries and responsibilities, and hope to come up with some protocols or guidelines which will help avoid similar things happening in the future.

THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Our next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at 6pm. Please book the date: we'll be in touch closer to the time to confirm venue.

Please mail us on chair@dewaterkantcivicassociation.com if there is anything you'd like included in the agenda for that meeting.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT...

We're excited about Cape Town's inaugural Museum Night: an after-hours open-house giving access to all the city's major museums. Head up to the Company's Gardens on February 26, and walk into and between participating museums in the area – the National Gallery, the Jewish Museum, the Museum, the Planetarium, the Slave Lodge, and the Old Town House. Naturally, there'll be music and other entertainment, and food stalls to give you energy to keep going.

Keep an eye on the press for more details.

NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Emergency	Cape Town emergency services	107 (from a landline) or 021 480 7700 (from a mobile)
City services	Abandoned vehicles	021 400 6224
	General - illegal dumping, waste collection & disposal, etc	0860 103 089 Contact.Us@capetown.gov.za
	Water-related issues	waterTOC@capetown.gov.za or SMS 31373
	Roads & stormwater (potholes etc)	0860 103 054 or 0800 103 089
	Electricity-related issues:	power@capetown.gov.za or SMS 31220
	Traffic signal faults	0860 001 948
	Refuse / Bin collections	021 957 4700 or 0860 103 089
	Wasteplan for recycling	0861 116 699
Policing	SAPS Sector 3 manager Constable Pommer	082 522 2278
	CT Metro Police – law enforcement (dogs barking, traffic, graffiti, etc)	021 596 1999 0860 765 423
	SMS Crime Line	32 211
Local contacts	Green Point CID shift manager	071 670 3019
	Green Point CID CEO Marc Truss	marc@gpokcid.co.za
	Green Point CID mobile reaction unit (noise & light disturbances)	082 214 3228
	Ward Councillor Dave Bryant	Dave.Bryant@capetown.gov.za 071 855 9554