

SSR STILL STANDING STRONG

Rustenburg – Staan Saam Rustenburg Community Watch started as a normal neighbourhood watch. After the strikes in 2012, the need for the community to stand together was greater than ever before. Sins then, Staan Saam Rustenburg (SSR) grew to what it is known as today.

Naomi Pasino, the driving force behind SSR sadly passed away in 2019, but her amazing team is still carrying on her legacy by helping those in need.

SSR focuses on their immediate environment,

Rustenburg. They ensure a safer and better place by means of patrols done in neighbourhoods and to aid families in the form of food and clothing.

The organisation currently cares for about 3,000 people with food parcels and clothes on a monthly basis.

They also recently 'adopted' 10 elderly residents of Gerrie Rus. These residents are aged 73 to 83 and SSR ensures that they are well taken care off by providing the necessities like food and sometimes just good company.

The famous Staan Saam Huis is never quiet and there is a constant flow of people that need help.

SSR relies solely on donations. Items that cannot be given to those in need are sold to make money to pay the rent for the Staan Saam Huis or to buy more food.

For more information contact Juanita Pasino Louw on 083 444 6391 or Cathy Swanepoel on 065 534 7996. You can also visit the Staan Saam Huis at 80 Bethlehem Drive, Rustenburg.



From left: Tanya Coetzer, Juanita Pasino Louw, Cathy Swanepoel, Morné Coetzer in front of the new Staan Saam Huis in Bethlehem drive.

CLEANING UP TO SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT

Marikana/ Rustenburg – The Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) took its *Safe and Clean City* initiative to Marikana on Tuesday 4 February.

Armed with their cleaning equipment and refuse collection bags, a team from the municipality's Community Work Programme (CWP) was joined by Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism representatives.

Member of the mayoral council (MMC) on intergovernmental relations councillor John Molobi also rolled up his sleeves and helped to clean the area.

The MMC urged community members to prioritise personal hygiene and the cleanliness of their environment.

"It cannot be the responsibility of the municipality alone to keep your town clean. We must resist littering and dumping garbage," he said.

"There are unintended consequences, including putting your health at risk," Molobi concluded.



NON-COMPLIANT COLLEGES CLOSED

Rustenburg – The long arm of the law is catching up with many colleges that are either not legally registered or are enrolling students for courses they are not accredited to offer.

On Tuesday 11 February, officials from the Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) and the Department of Higher Education and Training closed or fined at least three colleges operating in the central business district.

Member of the mayoral committee (MMC) for planning and human settlements councillor Victoria Makhaula, as well as MMC for infrastructure and technical services councillor Lucky Kgaladi, were at the forefront of the operation.

One of the colleges was found to be offering traffic policing (N1 to N3) courses despite not having the required accreditation.

The owners of the college were fined R5,000 and their business was closed after an inspection revealed that their building did not have fire-fighting equipment, as required by the law.

The inspection team also discovered that another college, located in Pretorius Street, was not registered to operate in Rustenburg and was offering engineering and business studies courses despite not having the necessary accreditation to do so.

This educational facility was also shut down and its doors will only be re-opened when it has been properly registered with the

Department of Higher Education and Training. A third facility offering computer courses was also closed and fined R2,500 for non-accreditation and failing to equip their premises with fire extinguishers.

In an interview with *Platinum Weekly*, RLM spokesperson David Magae urged prospective students and their parents to scrutinise colleges thoroughly before deciding to enrol.

"Operations by the municipality targeting bogus colleges have been ongoing since last year. We urge the community to contact the Department of Higher Education and Training to verify whether or not a college is registered," Magae said.

"As the municipality, we can only advise because this is an area outside our jurisdiction. It would be unwise to pay for a particular course before verifying whether or not the college is registered with the relevant authorities," Magae concluded.

South Africa has a register of all qualifications which is managed by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and this register is referred to as the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

Prospective students can find a complete list of all registered private colleges and higher education institutions at www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/DocRegisters.aspx.



The RLM has resumed its clampdown on fake colleges.

GRFPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rustenburg – The Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association (GRFPA) will host their annual general meeting on Saturday 22 February.

The meeting, to be held at Brauhaus Afrika, will start at 10:00.

The National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998 makes provision for the formation of a fire protection association (FPA) to assist communities in awareness, education, prevention and combating of veld fires.

Members enjoy the benefit of legal help in the case of a claim resulting from a veld fire as well as support from other FPA members in case of a fire.

Cluster units are established within each FPA and all the members are actively involved in planning and implementing fire breaks and block burning as well as organised assistance in case of runaway fires.

This is an association for the community by the community and plays an active role in ensuring safety through awareness and information about how to prevent or deal with the outbreak of fires.

For more information contact GRFPA chairperson Debbie Snyman on 083 308 0543 or vice chairperson Herman Behrens on 083 577 9377.



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