

HEALTH

Table Mountain lit in gold

Lights switched on for an hour to create awareness of childhood cancer

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THE Cancer Association of South Africa (Cansa), in partnership with the City, lit up Table Mountain in gold in support of childhood cancer survivors, those battling cancer, and those who died.

The golden lights, the shade of the international awareness ribbon for childhood cancer, switched on at 8pm yesterday for an hour.

Last month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month was commemorated in South Africa.

Provincial Cansa TLC (Tough Living with Cancer) co-ordinator Anthea-Lynn Lewis said that in previous years, 600 to 700 children were diagnosed with cancer each year in South Africa.

Statistics show that about 1 000 cases of childhood cancer are now reported annually, with a survival rate of 55%, said Lewis.

"The aim of the event is to create awareness of childhood cancer, also to stand in solidarity with all children and teenagers currently fighting cancer.

"We will be standing together for everyone who has heard the words, 'your child has cancer', and also to support them through this journey."

Lewis said people should be made more aware of the warning signs of childhood cancer.

"We need to educate people more about the risk factors of cancer because why is it that the survival rate in developed countries is 80%, yet in SA it is only 55%, and many of our cancers are diagnosed at a late stage when it is normally put down as



TABLE Mountain was bathed in gold in support of cancer victims. | ARMAND HOUGH African News Agency (ANA)

growing pains? So when the cancer comes to the forefront, it is already at an advanced stage, which means treatment is starting late, therefore the chances of survival decreases, so we want people to be more aware."

Lewis advised that when a child pointed out periodic pain or discomfort, the child should be checked immediately and a second opinion sought if needed.

Choc Childhood Cancer Foundation regional manager Lynette Muthuray said although there had been a significant increase of 1.56% in early detection over the past year, and a year-on-year increase of 35% in Choc beneficiaries, there was still a huge need for awareness and detection in South Africa.

"With reports of childhood cancer curability being on the rise in South

Africa, according to a 2014 report by the American Cancer Society, it is now estimated that one in 408 children worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 15.

Yet with early detection and treatment in paediatric oncology units, globally the survival rate can be as high as between 70% and 80% with variance, depending on the type of cancer."

TOURISM

Aerial cableway draws visitors

STAFF REPORTER

DESPITE Covid-19, and a trickle of tourists in Cape Town, the opening of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway has seen lines of visitors queuing at one of South Africa's top attractions.

Eased Covid-19 lockdown restrictions saw the cableway opening up to visitors last month, and with international flights allowed into the country since last week, more tourists are expected.

Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company managing director Wahida Parker said: "We are really looking

forward to being able to carry local visitors and domestic travellers up to the top of Table Mountain."

The cableway operates Mondays to Sundays, from 8am to 3pm.

"Our goal is to ensure that every visitor has a world-class experience when enjoying the heritage and beauty of Table Mountain," Parker said.

She said the company had taken every step to ensure the health and safety of visitors and staff.

"As part of this, we will operate the cableway for visitors in accordance with health regulations and will follow strict Covid-19 protocols."

WIN

STAND a chance to win one of four family tickets and a meal voucher for Table Mountain valued at R1 640

1. To enter SMS CAMOUNTAIN followed by your name and email address to 33258.
2. The competition opens today and closes on Thursday at 9am.
3. Winners will be notified via email.

4. SMS costs R1.50.
5. Terms and conditions apply.
6. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. Each family ticket is valid for two adults and two children under 17.
8. Winners are required to produce a copy of this page when claiming their prize.

This means a maximum of 26 people plus the cabin master will be allowed per ride in the cable car to ensure physical distancing takes place. No person will be permitted to

enter the cable car without a mask. The cableway will undergo a deep clean every 24 hours and will be sanitised after every ride. Hand sanitiser will be provided, Parker said.

City's initiative will aid small businesses

THE City's human settlements directorate is expected to launch an initiative today whereby repairs and maintenance service request backlogs will be attended to by small- and medium-sized contractors in an effort to support the latter.

The City will be partnering with the National Housing Finance Corporation, which will train small community businesses and give them funding and material to refurbish the more than 50 000 community residential units across the metro.

Mayco member for human settlements Malusi Boo said: "We understand it is some of our most vulnerable who occupy these units, and so as we continued to encourage our tenants to pay, we could not sit back and watch their homes fall apart when they did not pay, and we therefore had to think out of the box. This is how the emerging contractor's incubation initiative came about."

He said small businesses would now form part of the work done in their communities, while their businesses grew.

For the 2019/20 financial year, the City's public housing department carried out more than 20 974 service requests, spending close to R1 billion in maintenance and upgrades to its community residential units, including the intricate work fixing and replacing staircases.

"We have consulted with these communities extensively. We know some of the original tenants have passed, leaving their children and grandchildren behind. Many of the current tenants are not employed. This is a chance for them to get involved, while ensuring their homes are dignified and safe," said Boo. | Marvin Charles

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Residents now fixing potholes themselves

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THE pothole problem in the Goodwood area seems to be worsening, and residents have now decided to take matters into their own hands and fix the problem themselves.

Goodwood Ratepayers' Association chairperson Faizel Petersen said: "We've had members of the community filing up some potholes at their own expense, as they fear damage to their vehicles and potential accidents involving cars trying to avoid potholes."

Yesterday, Goodwood ward councillor Franchesca Walker provided a detailed plan on how they were going to fix potholes in the area, saying it would take time to implement it in all affected streets.

"As we all know the lockdown has delayed many projects, and service delivery was seriously hampered due to our staff only operating at 30% at the depots," Walker said.

"Our depots are almost back to normal, which will allow us to have more staff hanging in there with us. We need to work together as partners to bring about much-needed change.

"Residents need to understand that we had many challenges and we acknowledge that this is frustrating. However, we still strive to put more focus on service delivery throughout the whole ward."

This repair plan should cover the entire Goodwood

Faizel Petersen
GOODWOOD RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

But Petersen said residents were disappointed with the plan presented, "There's a disappointment that the plan only covers a section between Voortrekker Road up to Milton Road, Jakes Gerwel Drive up to Giel Basson Drive. We've submitted numerous C3 (service request) calls from across Goodwood where there's a need for potholes to be repaired, and this (plan) should cover the entire Goodwood," Petersen said.

The City's transport directorate said it was implementing plans to attend to potholes after the hard lockdown and winter rains.

The City said the transport directorate had attended to 17 415 potholes across the city at a cost of over R43 million. During level 5 of the lockdown road maintenance was not considered an essential service in terms of the Disaster Management Act regulations, meaning only emergency works could be undertaken then.

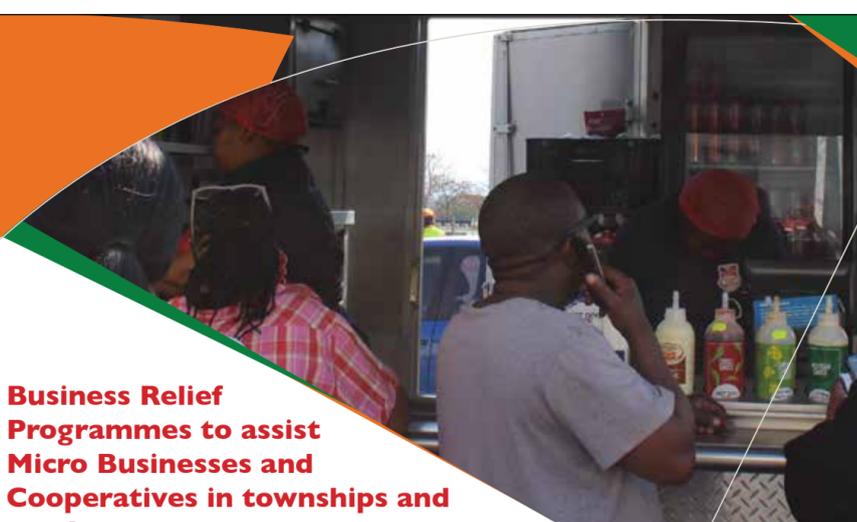
During a recent special transport portfolio committee meeting, the City said recent events had caused a rapid increase in the degradation of the roads, and had led to large backlogs in repairs and maintenance, specifically pothole repairs.

Mayco member for transport Felicity Purchase said: "The transport directorate commenced with the pothole repair programme in Goodwood in the last week of September 2020, to clear the backlog of repairs on potholes which were severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"At the moment, we have 70% of our road depot staff back at work, with the rest returning imminently.

"Clearing of the backlog is being prioritised and being attended to as a matter of urgency, and will improve as more staff return to the depots across the city."

She said the maintenance work was scheduled to take place until April 2021.



Business Relief Programmes to assist Micro Businesses and Cooperatives in townships and rural areas

The Department of Small Business Development with its agencies Small Enterprise Finance Agency (sefa) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) have developed programmes to revive small businesses in townships and rural areas. sefa will assist by providing finance whilst Seda provides non-financial support such as training and registration of businesses.

Do you own any of the following businesses?
Do you know of the benefits you can get from these programme?

- Spaza and General Dealers
- Bakeries & Confectionaries
- Small Scale and Micro Clothing and Textile
- Small Enterprise Manufacturing Programme
- Automotive Autobody

To access the Business Relief Programmes, please send your enquiries to Spazasupport@dsbd.gov.za or helpline @sefa.org.za OR call

