



BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

BCMM January

East London • King William's Town • Bhisho

Vol 1 | N° 1: Monthly coverage of news and events in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Oosthuizen takes Africa Open

By Tabisa Mntengwane

LOUIS Oosthuizen is the champion. The South African golfer won the Africa Open on Sunday, 9 January at the East London Golf Club, the second time he has won the tournament.

He won by two shots from another South African golfer, Tjaart van der Walt, who carded a four under 69. The two started the final round as joint leaders, and the game only turned in Oosthuizen's favour at the penultimate hole.

The former British champion birdied the par three 17th while Van der Walt made a bogey at the same hole to settle the tussle. Van der Walt started his final day with birdies in his first three holes but picked up only two more birdies and a bogey to go in round 69.

Finishing third was Retief Goosen with three shots off the lead on 24 under, after he finished with a 69. Goosen carded a birdie and an eagle in his opening three holes but his challenge faded and he picked up just two more birdies and a bogey.

Another South African, Jaco van Zyl, grabbed fourth place, finishing on 23 under, while Scotland's Alastair Forsyth was in fifth place.

Speaking about the match, Oosthuizen said: "I might have been pushing my luck. It was a real dog fight out there between us."

Congratulating Van der Walt on his game, he added: "I knew his final round battle would not be easy. He played very well."

About his game, Durban-born Van der Walt said: "I had a messy start with an eagle,

a birdie and two drop shots in the first five holes but took on the sixth and that birdie got me going again."

The Africa Open was launched in 2008 at the Fish River Sun Country Club and moved to East London in 2009 after Buffalo City became one of the principal sponsors, committing to a three-year contract that ended this year.

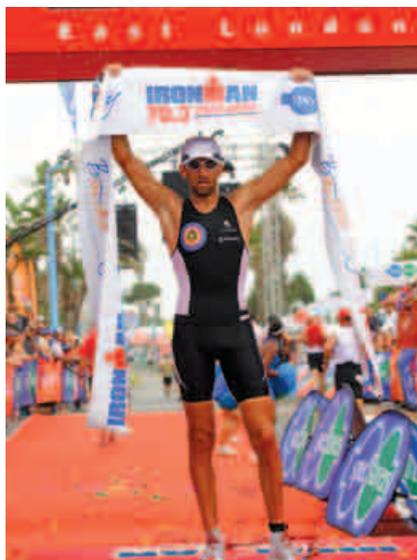
In early January, the Portfolio Head of Local Economic Development, Pumla Nazo, announced that the Metro would extend its

sponsorship of the €1-million (about R10,4-million) tournament. "This guarantees that the city will continue to welcome a strong cast of international golfers and enjoy the economic benefit the tournament brings for a further five years."

The City's decision to throw its weight behind the tournament for another five years had been influenced by the economic benefits. "Each year, in excess of 300 jobs are created before, during and immediately after the tournament."



BCMM Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha handing over Africa Open trophy to Louis Oosthuizen



Winner of the Iron Man 70.3 - 2012 Marino Vanhoenacker.

New champion for Ironman 2012

By Lydia Ngqoba

Belgian Marino Vanhoenacker is the new title holder for the Spec-Savers Ironman 70.3 South Africa this year.

Vanhoenacker has participated in various Ironman events, including those in Port Elizabeth and Austria. He has won Ironman Austria six consecutive times. The Metro Deputy Mayor Mzwandile Msoki officially started the race by pulling the trigger from the starter's gun where the first team started by swimming.

Speaking about the race, Vanhoenacker said: "It was hard in the swim but I knew I had to break away from the pack on the cycle course and that's what made me win this triathlon. I maintained the gap between me and the second lead and at the end it was comfortable but hard to win."

Second place in the men's race was Ronnie Schildknecht, followed by Domenico Passuello. The women's race was won by Jodie Swallow, with Lucie Zelenkova in second place and Tine Deckers in third.

Speaking about the race, Swallow said: "The race was very difficult. I am happy I finally made it to the finishing line. It was not easy defending this title."

Supporter turnout was excellent, with residents and visitors coming out in their droves to cheer on the athletes.

The Metro to build new Fire Station

By Lydia Ngqoba



Cllr Nokuku Marwanqa, the ward 37 councillor; Cllr Rufus Rwxu portfolio head for Public Health and Safety and Cllr Zukisa Faku the portfolio head for the Engineering services



BCMM fire fighter test the new 10000 litre tanker during the sod turning ceremony.

About 200 jobs are expected to be created during construction of the state of the art fire station in King Williams Town which will be operational in October.

BCMM Portfolio Head for the Engineering Services Zukisa Faku alongside Health and Public Safety Portfolio Head Rufus Rwxu and Local Ward Councillor Nokuku Marwanqa conducted a sod turning ceremony at the construction site

Faku who initiated the project three year ago said: "Building this fire station took longer because of the circumstances beyond our control including employment of service providers," she said.

Faku added that the station will benefit King William's Town residents, businesses and surrounding rural areas including farmers.

"King William's Town has lots of rural areas and it has been a challenge in these areas to have a proper fire truck to help with bushfires, houses burning and other fires

The station is funded by urban settlement development grant at a cost R10m it will be built at the corner of Woodhouse and Cambridge Streets.

Ward Councillor Nokuku Marwanqa welcomed the project in the ward and expressed her gratitude over the initiative. "This is the beginning of beautiful things to come in King William's Town and its surrounding areas," she said.

BCMM Chief Fire Officer Thembile Thompson welcomed the new station, saying that the old buildings could not accommodate new fire engines and could not renovate as it was a heritage building.

Councillor Leon Mentoor, on behalf of the inland community, thanked the Metro for bringing services to King William's Town.

BCMM identifies land for safe park in Duncan Village

By Ntombethema Madlanga

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality officials together with East London High Transmission Area project recently embarked on a site visit to check the land which has been identified to build a safe park for vulnerable and HIV/AIDS affected children in Duncan Village.

BCMM Special Programmes made a requested to the Settlement Planning Branch to identify a piece of land to establish a Safe Park in Duncan Village. An investigation was carried on Erf 32536 and outcome shows that it is possible to develop the Safe Park as part of Isibindi project.

The property is owned by Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality and is located in Duncan Village (Ward 6) at the corner of Ford Street and Matanzima Street

The Isibindi Project model designed by the National Association of Child Care Workers is being implemented to meet the needs of vulnerable groups such children, young people and families who are affected by HIV and AIDS. The project is implemented in over 55 sites in eight provinces by over 40 partner organisation. BCMM Special Programmes Manager said the land for the Safe Park has been provided by the metro through the funding from the Dutch City of Leiden.

"The safe Park will open daily in the afternoon and over holidays. activities will include playing traditional games, organized sports fixtures, board games, arts and crafts, group discussions, environmental education, celebration of special events and home supervision," said Petzer.



BCMM officials during the site visit to Duncan Village to identify land for Isibindi safe park project

Metro clamps down illegal connections

By Chris Gower (BCMM Chief Revenue Protection Specialist)

The Metro is losing close to R34m electricity sales due to electricity theft. This is of serious concern and various revenue protection strategies are being introduced to reduce electricity theft. We are presently inspecting our business customers to

identify lost consumption issues.

We have Bylaws in place for meter tampering. On the first offence a domestic customer has to pay approximately R2647 in tampering fees and this escalates to a fee of R4411 for a second offence and then

R7055 for a third offence.

The tampering penalties for businesses are stiffer, being the greater of R6485 or 20% of monthly consumption. In addition to this, the customer is forced to use automatic metering technology at their cost. In all tampering cases, we also recover lost consumption.

We are actively removing izinyoka on a planned daily program. In Duncan Village, we remove illegal connections 3 days out of 5 and often team up with the SAPS and Law Enforcement to ensure that illegal connections are timeously removed, unfortunately the demand for electricity supersedes the removal rate.

Our Planning Department is in the process of establishing a safe method of installing legalised, metered, electricity supplies to these informal areas but we still conducting feasibility study.

Once the methodology has been approved, these informal houses will have access to a legal electricity supply. Obviously, the number of metered installations that we can cater for will be dependent on allocated budgets.

We will pursue all avenues to clamp down illegal connection in partnership with the SAPS and other stakeholders. We will try our utmost best to prevent or apprehend izinyoka.



Illegal electricity connections are one of the main causes of shack fires in informal settlements.

Newly elected ward committees orientated

The newly elected Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Ward Committee gathered for the first time at the introductory ward committee workshop, held at the East London City Hall on 17 and 18 January.

More than 50 representatives from the City's 50 wards were present. The workshop was meant to prepare committee members for their roles for the next four years as advisers to ward councillors.

Facilitator Vukile Balura, who is a provincial executive committee member of the South African Local Government Association in Eastern Cape, began the two-day seminar by speaking about the structures and processes of local government.

Most of what he discussed was taken from chapter seven of the South African Constitution.

"The main thrust of this gathering is to equip members to fully understand their roles and responsibilities as far as local government matters are concerned," he said.

Members needed to know how to derive mandates in order for them to represent their respective constituencies and account for the progress and programmes of municipalities, and the challenges municipalities faced. "Members must make a point that the needs and aspirations of people in their respective wards are taken into account."

He covered topics such as ward-based planning, the City's Integrated Development Plan, budgeting and key performance areas such as basic services, infrastructure services, local economic development, financial viability and the special development framework.

According to attendee Lilana Ndiki, a first-

time adviser in Ward 16, which comprises Amalinda and Haven Hills, the workshop has been valuable in that she is learning what is expected of her. "We need to know what role we are supposed to be playing and how to channel information from communities to councillors," she said.



BCMM Council Speaker Luleka Simon with previous members of the Ward Committees during the Certificate presentation event

BCMM to write off indigent debt

Thousands of poor households are in line to benefit as Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is in the process of **writing off up to R63m in bad debt** owed by **indigent consumers**.

The Municipality has issued a list with over 24 000 households in the Metro that are eligible for their debts to be written off with debts ranging from a few rands to up to R43 000.

Council Speaker Luleka Simon has called upon residents to contact their ward councillor and verify their eligibility with the relevant documentation.

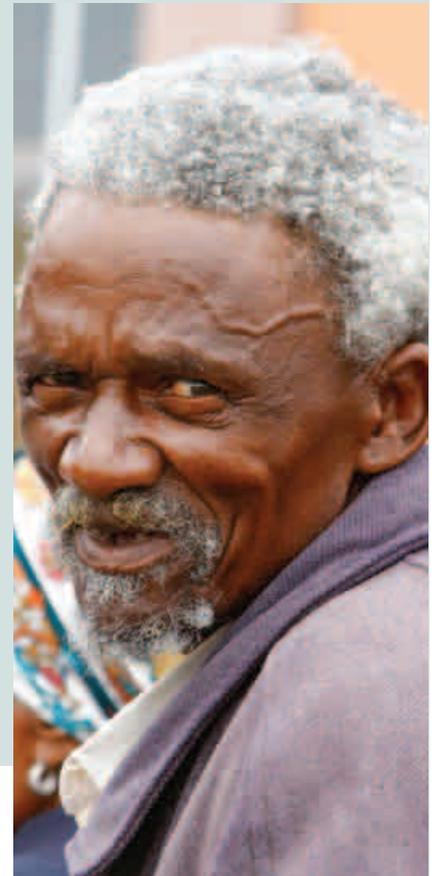
The writing off debt process was tabled at the last 2011 Council meeting in line with the chapter 9 of the Municipal systems act 34 of 200 and Chapter 13, section 1 of the Credit Control By-law (No. 1554 of Provincial Gazette Extraordinary, 3 July 2006). The matter is again coming before Council on 31 January 2012.

The debt is in respect of rates and service charges collected on monthly basis and accumulated balance after

the monthly indigent subsidy grant and rates rebates has been applied. In addition to the monthly municipal service rebates, the indigent debtors are also given 50Kwh free electricity and 6kl water.

The Metro discovered that many indigent debtors only consume the 50 free kwh electricity and do not purchase any electricity during the month. The collection methods via the electricity metering system did not yield any results in such cases. The BCMM credit policy states that the **debt of indigent consumers can not be handed over to debt collectors or attorneys provided that debtors are registered in the municipal indigent database**. The policy seeks to ensure that no legal action is taken against indigent debtors as this will place an additional burden on the poorest of the poor.

The law states that the Municipal Council may, on recommendation from the Municipal Manager or any duly delegated official, write off any debt or portion thereof, provided that the Municipal Council is satisfied that the debt or portion thereof is **irrecoverable** or that it will be in the best interest of the Municipality to accept part payment of the



Indigent subsidy scheme is meant for poor people including disable and elderly citizens.

debt in full and final settlement.

The total debt excluding VAT, that is deemed to be irrecoverable in respect to indigent debtors is as follows; electricity R600.204.36, rates R6612453.92, sewerage 8 769 298.41, sundries R4285 661.85, refuse R11 098 358.27 and water R31 737 856.50. The debt relates to debtors that were registered as indigent as at 30 June 2011.

Only Limited credit control and debt collection action can be taken to recover debt in respect of indigent debtors after the indigent subsidy and rates rebate has been granted. With monthly billing period, the indigent debtor is expected to pay the balance of the account, failing which the debt is transferred to the electricity pre-payment metering system and the debt is placed on "G" block type.

This means that the indigent debtor still has access to electricity purchases, however for every rand tendered for electricity, 40c goes to the outstanding debt.

Memorial lecture held for BCMM struggle stalwart

By Lydia Ngqoba

As part of the ruling party 100 years celebration, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality recently hosted a memorial lecture on role of its struggle hero Dr Walter Rubusana at the East London City Hall.

Dr Somadoda Fikeni, an Independent Public Policy analyst, delivered a lecture on the historical role played by struggle heroes like Dr Rubusana in the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Dr Fikeni started his argument by elaborating more on the formation of the African National Congress and the purpose behind its formation. "When the ANC was formed, there was one goal, freedom for all," he said.

He emphasized on policy evaluation and political education are amongst the major role issues that need to be looked at by the organization.

He highlighted that the Eastern Cape Province, is the birthplace of most of the liberation struggle heroes. He also highlighted on the issue of academic excellence, saying that not enough is being done in terms of the likes of Dr. Walter Rubusana.

Dr. Fikeni concluded by mentioning that there needs to be a collective responsibility for challenges faced by society.



Dr. Somadoda Fikeni delivers a speech during the memorial lecture in honour of Dr. Walter Rubusana which was attended by various guests including MEC Local Government and Traditional Affairs Mlibo Qoboshiyane.

BCMM's Annual Sport Awards



Councillor Nozizwe Otola hand over certificate and trophy to the coach of the year Lawrence Peterson



Members of the rugby team pose for a photo with their trophy.

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Sport Club hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in Gonubie on January 20.

BCMM Sport Club President Xolisa Ngesman said the objective of the awards was to honour all those athletes and officials that excelled in their respective codes for the year 2011.

"Since we started last year our main aim as this executive was to make sure that we improve the standard and build team spirit among the members. For the first time in many years we managed to secure a substantial amount as the Budget for the Sport Club and that made it easy for us to plan our activities."

He added that: "The highlight of last year was the trip to Swaziland which in my view was a great success as our teams performed excellently. Without doubt this Executive did very well in planning for the event and everything went according to plans.

Ngesman commended club members for their good behaviour and conduct during the year especially at the international tournament held in Swaziland.

The sport club will be hosting an Annual General Meeting to elect new leadership that will be responsible for managing various sporting codes

The winners in various categories were given medals and trophies by Councillor Nozizwe Otola.



BCMM Sport Club Deputy Chairman Deon Martin hand over a trophy to the members of the choir

Award Categories

Darts

Player of the Year – Peter Mene
Most Committed Player – Luyanda Boso
Best newcomer – Landi Magayana

Pool

Player of the Year – Thembaletu Cita
Most Committed Player – Lubabalo Ngcongolo
Best newcomer – Mbulelo Mbulungwana

Netball

Player of the Year – Noluvuyo Nodludlume
Most Committed Player – Lwandlekazi Nkontso
Best newcomer – Milisa Tapile

Soccer

Player of the Year – Donovan King
Most Committed Player – Vusumzi Shushu
Best newcomer – Bradley Poovan

Volleyball

Player of the Year – Shedrick Adriaanse
Most Committed Player – Anele Mtya
Best newcomer – Raywin Flanagan

Tennis

Player of the Year – Jane Katushabe
Most Committed Player – Sisanda Mtatambi
Best newcomer – Ncedisa Ndonga

Table Tennis

Player of the Year – Yolande Goliath
Most Committed Player – Daluxolo Matika
Best newcomer – Gabriel King

Team of the Year

Pool and Darts

Team Manager of the Year

Karen Tabha (Volleyball)

Coach of the Year

Lawrence Peterson (Pool)

Chairman's Award

Pumla Saba

BCMM councillors remove illegal signs

Buffalo City Metro councillors recently embarked on a mission to remove illegal signs around the City. The Metro has noticed a disturbing trend in which people are publicly erecting offensive signs, posters and notices illegally.

These illegal signs are erected in inappropriate places like street verandas, traffic control signal / busy intersections, walls, rocks, bins, trees etc. Some contain offensive material, tend to obstruct traffic in such streets or pollute the environment.

For any illegal poster that has been erected, the Municipality will remove such poster(s) at a cost of R160.00 each per un pasted poster, and R395.00 each per pasted poster if such poster(s) has not been removed after the Municipality has written to the offender giving him notice remove such poster(s).

The City police will be patrolling the streets and be on the lookout and arrest anybody caught erecting illegal posters. "We are calling upon our people and relevant stakeholders to come on board and assist in the clampdown on those who are violating our Bylaws and spreading filth in such an unacceptable behaviour, said Mbewu Mbolekwa from BCMM Signage control. He added that these people mainly target the CBD's area to erect illegal advertisement containing entertainment shows and illegal clinics.

The erection of illegal signage hampers the municipality efforts to keep the City clean.

"We are calling upon our people to take pride and responsibility in their environment and discourage this unruly behaviour" said Mbolekwa.



Cllr Rowan Thiele, Cllr Suzan Bentley and Cllr Isabel Thompson are hard at work removing illegal signage at the War Memorial, upper Oxford Street

Residents urged to save electricity

Eskom has continued to call on South Africans and the corporate world to make a 10% savings on electricity.

"Given the tightness of the system we understand that Eskom cannot reach energy savings working alone... it must include others," said Public Enterprises Minister Malusi Gigaba .

Gigaba said while the role played by companies in heeding the call to save power was appreciated, the situation "we're in requires that we change the way we use energy".

Gigaba added that stakeholders were being engaged on implementing a voluntary energy saving scheme.

Eskom Chief Executive Brian Dames said the 10% savings across all the parastatal's customers was envisaged in the Energy Conservation Scheme developed by Eskom, customers and government in 2009.

"We don't want to go back to load-shedding," Dames said at the company's first quarterly briefing this year.

Eskom is no longer able to sustain a system where it shifts planned maintenance and delays maintenance outages in order to meet the country's energy requirements. Most of South Africa's power stations have reached their mid-life and require more

maintenance.

In the last two years, a backlog of maintenance outages has developed but this has been reduced from 36 to 25 units.

The power utility was yet to decide what it would ask the National Electricity Regulator of SA (Nersa) in tariff determination.

"From our perspective, we know that we have price increases every three years and now we're in the second year. So this year we have to do our preparations for the next tariff increase. We've not decided what to apply for; we ... will work through a process of understanding the impact on the economy. The country and the world

- from an economic perspective - is in a very difficult position. We understand that clearly," explained Dames.

The system is expected to remain tight until the introduction of the first unit of the Medupi station comes in 2013.

"We are confident that we are on top of the situation leading up to 2013. We are calling for active citizenship," said Gigaba.

The parastatal had done a lot of maintenance work in December 2011. Since the power cuts in 2008, Eskom coal stockpiles have been replenished at healthy levels and the addition of 2537 MW of new capacity.

"Electricity is an important input that can help growth or impede it," said Gigaba. –

BuaNews





Buffalo City News on Radio

Watch out for Buffalo City News on Radio – (Mdantsane FM) starting mid-February 2012. The news will be focusing on Service Delivery issues and allow the City to talk to the people and the people talk to the city. If you have campaigns and events to communicate – please contact the Communications Department.

Buffalo City News tell us, we will tell them!!!!



BCMM bids farewell to Ngwenya

The Communications and Development Cooperation Department staff members bid fare well to Samkelo Ngwenya last week Friday.

Speaking at the farewell Communication Manager Keith Ngesi said Ngwenya invaluable contribution and commitment to the success of the department will be solely missed. He wished him well in his new position.

Ngwenya will be joining the Amathole District Municipality as a Communications and Media Relations Manager at the beginning of February.

Samkelo Ngwenya flanked by Sinazo Jekwa (left) and Lydia Ngqoba (right) during the farewell function



Buffalo City Metro Council Speaker Luleka Simon, Portfolio Head for Local Economic Development and Tourism, Interim Executive Director: Strategic Management Ondela Mahlangu and Interim Director Local Economic Development and Municipal Enterprises Vuyani Mbatha with delegation from Chinese City of Jinua.

BCMM Staff birthdays: Messages of Support: Congrats messages: Goodwill wishes

Nelisa Komani: 14 January 2012

I would like to say happy birthday to: Nelisa Komani-14/01/2012

Happy birthday Manesh, enjoy your day, and stay as sweet as you are, my friend!!

Love u: Noma (Traffic dept KWT)



Send your valentine messages and wishes to: Amanda Fihla • Email: amandafi@buffalocity.gov.za



SOCIAL SCENE



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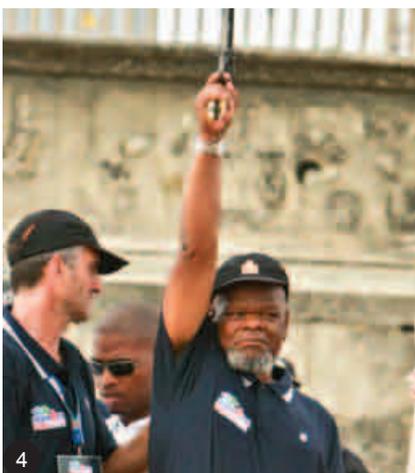


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1. Iron man athlete prepares for race at the starting line.
2. Buffalo City Metro Deputy Mayor Mzwandile Msoki, Specsavers CEO Bryan Dowley and Ironman 70.3 Managing Director, Keith Bowler.
3. Buffalo City Metro fire fighters attending a blaze next to Gonubie golf course.
4. BCMM Deputy Mayor Mzwandile Msoki pulling the trigger to officially start the Iron Man 70.3 race.
5. Chief fire Officer Thembile Thompson explaining the capabilities of various fire engines to Portfolio Head for Health and Public Safety Rufus Rwezu and Portfolio Head for Engineering Services Zukisa Faku.



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BCMM January is an initiative of Buffalo City Metro Communications Department. Every month, we will bring you coverage of major news and events in Buffalo City from previous month. News may be contributed by any member of staff electronically in Ms Word format. Stories may not exceed 300 words and must be e-mailed the week before the end of the month. Photos must also be sent electronically in minimum 300 dpi JPEG format and must be accompanied by captions.

Kindly contact Samkelo Gqeba on 043 705 1158 or email samkelog@buffalocity.gov.za .

We reserve the right to edit all contributions. Communications policies and terms apply.