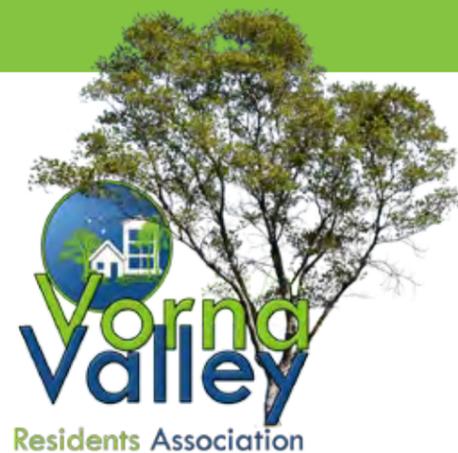


Working with you, for you

# Vorna Valley Residents Association

# Newsletter



August 2020

## VVRA Committee

- Marianne Nel - Chairperson
- Paul Veltman - Secretary, Infrastructure
- Hein de Kock - Treasurer, Infrastructure
- Wendy Redl - Green
- Varushka Singh - Liaison

Facebook Twitter Email Website



Whatsapp your details and email address to 082-460-8662 to join the VVRA council issues



"I would like to say thank you so much for the great service from your side. It has been a pleasure to work with you." N.M.

GUSAN 082 875 0151 / WALDO 083 266 6333



Get your Carpets & Upholstery cleaned TODAY!

Contact Nigel: 0765437641  
becs.midrand@gmail.com



Email: courier@hot.co.za  
Cell: 082 561 0063 (Wolfgang)

## Dear Vorna Valley Residents

We are well on our way to spring, but will still experience several days of cold weather, with a promise of our first rains.

Sadly our roads are in bad condition, and most storm water drains are still blocked. We urge residents to report such issues immediately, and hopefully JRA will attend to these issues as soon as possible, before the heavy rains start.

City Parks has been pruning our pavement trees and the branches left on the pavements will be collected as soon as possible.



Thank you goes to the JMPD officer who attended to the matter of trucks being parked on the pavement on Shamroc Ave.

The owners verbally attacked me, but arrogant people parking trucks illegally, are like water off a ducks back. Rather 500 happy residents verses 2 unhappy residents.

**"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." – Henry Ford**

## CORONAVIRUS

#COVID-19

Hotline: 0800 029 999

### Precautions:

- 1 Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds
- 2 Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
- 3 Avoid close contact with people who are sick



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## Help us fight the Coronavirus



## Adopt good personal hygiene practices

### COVID-19 STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA



RENTALS & SALES

Wendy Redl

wendy.redl@kgres.co.za  
082 451 8365

People. Passion. Property



## Pikitup

Pikitup is again having issues in delivering their services, and have to come back the next day to complete their waste collections. Many complexes were left with their skips not being emptied on time. If more people would start recycling, they would have less waste in their Pikitup bins. REMINDER: Wednesdays is Phambili Services recycling collection day.

If you have bulky waste like old beds, cupboards etc, that are too large to place in your waste bin, please send an email to: [midrand\\_bulkserv@pikitup.co.za](mailto:midrand_bulkserv@pikitup.co.za) with a detailed list of what you need collected. Pikitup do bulk waste collections once a month.



## J Water

Overflowing sewerage drains have been a major issue this past month and we urge residents not to throw foreign objects down their toilets or drains, which is the reason drains get block.

A few water leaks and leaking water meters occurred this past month.



## City Power

A few areas in Vorna Valley were left without power a few times, but no load shedding again.

Sadly power boxes are still being opened forcefully by contractors and many of them are so damaged, they can not close anymore.



## VVRA LPR Camera Project

We would like to thank the complexes that are already contributing towards the running costs of the LPR cameras and Hawkeye Security who also contributes towards them.

If there is a resident or company that would also like to sponsor the monthly running cost, every cent helps, please contact [info@vvra.co.za](mailto:info@vvra.co.za) or on whatsapp on 082 460 8662 (Marianne).



For all your security related services, you most welcome to contact us on 083 796 4303

### Services offered

GUARDING (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & SPECIAL EVENTS.)

BODY GUARDS, VIP & COVERT ESCORTS (HVG), SURVEILLANCE & INVESTIGATIONS

MONITORING & ARMED RESPONSE

CCTVS, ALARMS (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & BIOMETRIC INSTALLATIONS)

ACCESS CONTROL (GATE MOTORS, ELECTRIC FENCING, INTERCOM SYSTEMS, ETC.)

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

**ANONYMOUS REPORTING NUMBER: 082 998 4303**

We also encourage the community to report any suspicious persons or vehicles that they suspect to be involved in criminal activity such as ( Drugs related, Stolen Vehicles and/or property) which will be followed up by us together with the relevant authorities



## VVRA AGM

We would like to thank all those residents who made the effort of attending the VVRA AGM via zoom.

We would like to thank Mark Straw for his time as a committee member, as he has stepped down, and we wish you well. And we would like to welcome Wendy Redl onboard as a committee member going forward.

Thank you also goes to Hein de Kock, Paul Veltman, and Varushka Singh for staying on for another year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

And last but not least, thank you to all our sponsors - Wendy Redl, Platinum, Firzt and Heaven's Kitchen for their sponsorship towards our cleaner.

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller** So let us not allow people to divide us in the hope to make us weak.....

If you see something, report it asap. All call logging details on last page of this newsletter.



## Advertisements



**Sold** in our first week of business!



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- Pre and Post Occupation Cleaning
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- After Party Cleaning
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- Green Chemicals Supplier
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NIGEL  
076 543 7641  
becs.midrand@gmail.com



Burt Financial Advisory (Pty) Ltd is a company that provides a wide range of Professional Accounting, Taxation, Auditing and Consulting services. Incorporated under The Companies Act 71 of 2008 and it began its operations in July 2019. We have a team of consultants who have over 20 years combined experience across different sectors. We aim to differentiate our services from our competitor's through offering customised services as per the needs of the specific clients. As BFA we want our clients to comply with all relevant legislation and avoid any business expenses due to non-compliance.

Contact details: 0812431588 or  
Burtkhoza@gmail.com

### Reduce your garden waste removal rates.

Boombadotmobi is a small waste management business that cares about the environment and ensures that your waste is disposed responsibly (i.e. It doesn't end up in rivers or illegally dumped). We even send you pictures of the final destination of your waste.

We already have clients in your area that will make it affordable for you to share garden waste removal costs. We come once a month and the costs remains the same regardless of the size of your waste.

All for R350.00 per month  
boombadotmobi  
For more info: 060 688 4004

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rickus@firzt.co.za

www.firzt.co.za

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COMMERCIAL SALES & RENTALS

# Council News

## Townhouse complexes get shock bills in August.

Seems numerous townhouse complexes got extremely high bills for August some with sewer charges of over R 1 million. COJ is claiming it has made an error in its application of its own tariffs. And thus backdating these charges for a number of years and lumping them onto the August bills. And to top it all off sending out press releases it will cut services to all customers that do not settle their bills or make arrangements.



15 June 2020

Dear Valued Customer

**TARIFF CHANGE ON MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT**

The City of Johannesburg has exercised an audit on your municipal account that intended to ensure revenue completeness and accuracy. The recent audit conducted revealed that the Sewer tariff charged on the property is not in line with the approved tariffs description as published.

*"Multi-dwelling" means any arrangement of premises that comprises more than one dwelling unit including semi-detached houses, simplex units, townhouses and any other arrangement of residential premises excluding a block of flats.*

This therefore serves to advise that the billing on the account will be amended in line with the approved tariffs from 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The change will be effected from Sewer Basic Residential Flat (SB\_R\_FLAT) to Sewer Basic Multiple dwelling (SB\_R\_MULT) and will be reflected in the next invoice.

The City of Johannesburg anticipate the financial impact that will be caused by the tariff amendment and payment plans can be arranged. Customers can make payment arrangements at any Customer Service Centre in Johannesburg or by way of electronic service.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Customer Service Centre or Call Centre on 0800 562874.

Yours faithfully,

*M. Mashau*  
**Lufuno Mashau**  
 Group Head, Revenue Shared Services Center (Acting)  
 Group Finance  
 City of Johannesburg



Media statement  
 1 September 2020

**JOHANNESBURG WATER IMPLEMENTS WATER DEMAND LEVY TO ALL CUSTOMERS**

All water prepaid customers across the City of Johannesburg are reminded about the new water demand management levy that has been implemented from 1 July 2020 going forward (according to the Council Approved 2020/21 Tariffs Report), that there is a standard once-off monthly fixed charge will be charged when one buys water credit, this is a fixed charge for all City of Johannesburg customers using conventional meters including prepaid customers in the greater Soweto, Riverside View and Cosmo City.

The fixed charge is mandatory and will be charged monthly, meaning customers cannot buy water for less than R27.00 as they need to cover the monthly fixed charge before they can get sufficient credit to last them for the month, customers are also informed not to buy water in bulk to last them for more than a month as they will automatically accumulate the monthly water fixed charge on their accounts for months they didn't buy any credit.

Water demand Management Levy for 2020/2021	
Monthly charges on all accounts	
Per connection per month	Levy (R/pm)
Domestic properties	R26.52
Non-Domestic properties	R234.07

The City is also offering the Expanded Social Package (ESP) to the indigent. The ESP targets vulnerable residents in the city such as the unemployed, youth, people with disabilities, displaced persons and senior citizens. People with different levels of need will qualify for different levels of subsidy according to the City's measure of affordability. Please visit the nearest CoJ service centre to be assisted. The levy is also applicable to all customers on ESP if they use more than the allocation per month.

### The Expanded Social Package (ESP) Online Registration Process during COVID-19

As part of the continued fight against COVID-19 and for the convenience of our citizens, the Social Development Department has introduced an online platform effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 for ESP registrations during this period.

**NEW APPLICATIONS AND RE-REGISTRATIONS FOR THE ESP PROGRAM CAN BE MADE ONLINE BY:**

- Visit: [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)
- click on the Apply for ESP tab, click on Apply for Expanded Social Package
- Complete your details on the form
- Attach the required documents and click: apply.

**Qualifying Criteria:**

- Must be a South African Citizen
- Must reside within the City of Johannesburg boundaries
- Income should not exceed R6 000, 00 on a monthly basis (this excludes pensions, investments and other financial resources available)

**Documentation required:**

- Proof of income, SASSA Card, all bank statements for last 3 months or sworn affidavit confirming that you do not have a bank account. Any other source of income must be declared.
- Working age adults who are no longer employed due to COVID-19 should provide a letter of termination from the employer, or a letter from the employer for reduced hours and an affidavit in addition to the above if applicable.
- Proof of residence (any account statement reflecting address) or City of Johannesburg Rates and Taxes account number.
- Identity document
- City of Johannesburg Rates and Taxes Account
- City Power Pre-Paid Meter Account number
- Eskom Pre-Paid Electricity Account Number, Conventional Account Number
- Joburg Water Account Pre-Paid Account Number (Interface Tag Unit ID) number on the receipt

**NB\* Where the pensioner does not have a bank account and receives a state grant, a sworn affidavit confirming no bank account or other source of income will not be required (Pensioners in receipt of private pensions, must produce a 3 month bank statement or affidavit).**

**Types of rebates you may qualify for:**

- Property owners qualify for subsidy on their rates, refuse, sewer, water and electricity services.
- Non-property owners or non-account holders qualify for rebates on water and electricity services.

Electricity			
Score on Prevailing CoJ Poverty Index	Monthly allocation of free electricity (kWh/watt hours) per month on Conventional meters.	Monthly allocation of free electricity (kWh/watt hours) per month on Pre-paid meters.	
BAND 1	1-34	10 kWh	10 kWh
BAND 2	35-69	20 kWh	20 kWh
BAND 3	70-100	30 kWh	30 kWh

NB: ELECTRICITY IS CAPPED AT 150kWh PER HOUSEHOLD PER MONTH

Water			
Score on Prevailing CoJ Poverty Index	Allocation of additional free water per person per day (litres/day)	Monthly allocation cap of free water per household in which at least 50% of registered social package recipients qualify.	
BAND 1	1-34	25L	18 kl
BAND 2	35-69	35L	12 kl
BAND 3	70-100	50L	15 kl

NB: WATER IS CAPPED AT 15 kl PER HOUSEHOLD PER MONTH

**Pensioners** (Aged 60 and above) whose property value does not exceed R2 500 000 (Two million five hundred thousand rand) qualify for rebates on their rates, sewer and refuse of between 70 and 100%. The account must be in the name of the applicant.

**Working Age Citizens and the Unemployed** (Aged 18-59) whose property value does not exceed R500 000 (five hundred thousand rand) qualify for between 70 and 100% rebates on their rates, sewer and refuse. The account must be in the name of applicant.

**Important Information:**

- Clients are encouraged to register or re-register on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to receive benefits in the next month, failure to do so means that benefit pass through will reflect in the subsequent month.
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered and processed.
- It is the responsibility of the client to inform the ESP Social Project Unit of any changes in circumstances e.g. income, account number, etc.

**For further information contact:**  
 Tel: 011 407-6515  
 Email: [espunit@joburg.org.za](mailto:espunit@joburg.org.za)

**R400 million**  
 The total amount in COVID-19 rates rebates for Joburg property owners

All residential properties will receive a three-month rates rebate on the first R600 000 of their property value applicable for the Level-5 and Level-4 COVID-19 lockdown period. This retrospective rebate is automatic and will reflect on ratepayers' August municipal statement.

Issued by the City of Johannesburg  
[www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za) 0860JOBURG

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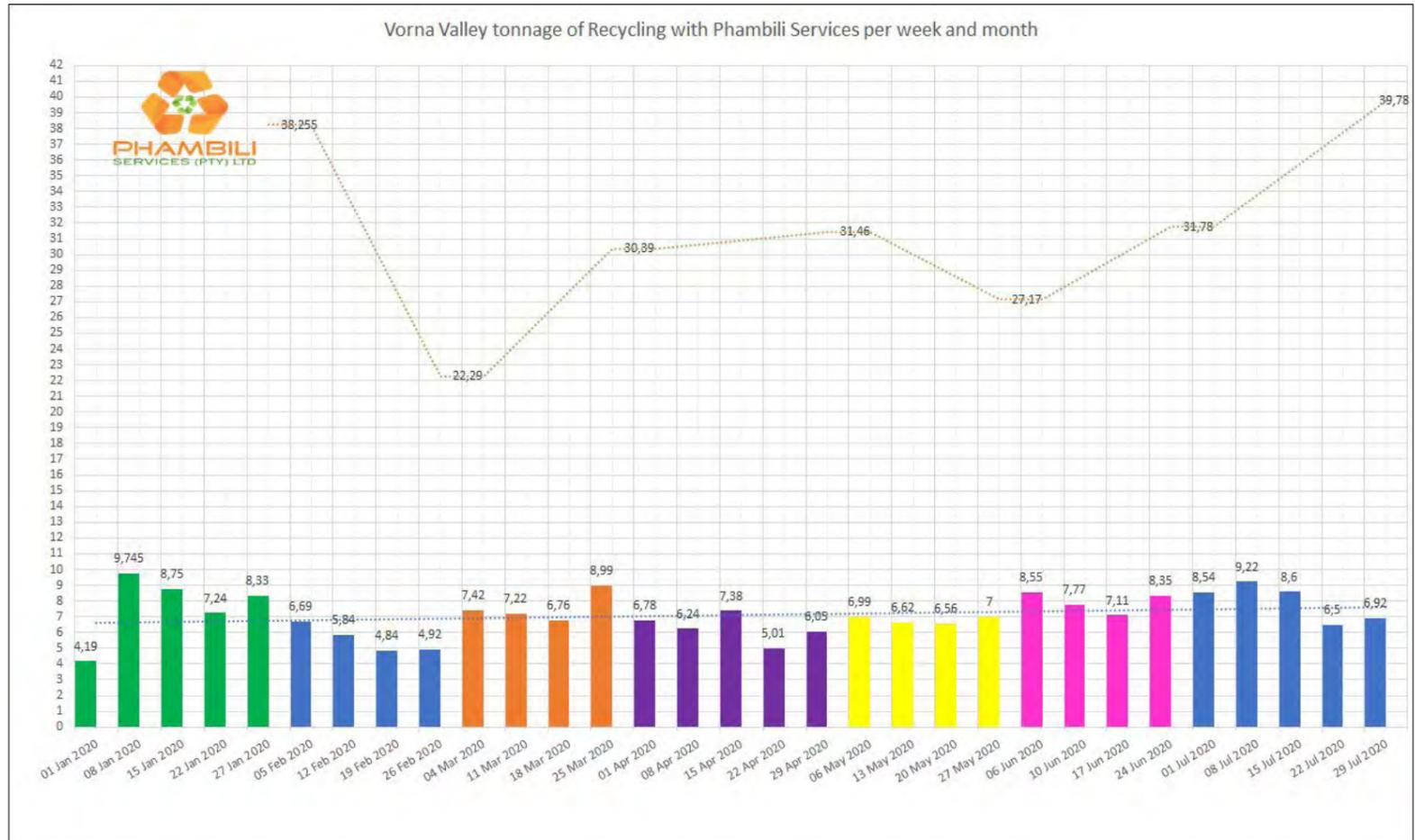
# Recycling

A reminder that recycling is compulsory. Phambili Services collect recycling in Vorna Valley on behalf of Pikitup, every Wednesday. If you are not yet recycling with Phambili, please contact [marianne@phambiliservices.co.za](mailto:marianne@phambiliservices.co.za) via email or via whatsapp on 082 460 8662 so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Phambili Services supply blue bags and collect weekly. All recycling material goes into one bag. (Paper, Cardboard, Magazines & Newspapers, Plastics, Glass, Bottles, Milk and Juice Cartons, Cans, Jars.

Phambili Services now also place informal reclaimers into complexes to do the recycling on their behalf. Phambili then buys back all the recycling they collect, taking them to the depot to weigh and pay. This will hopefully take many of the informal reclaimers off the streets and afford them a monthly income.

If you would like your complex to join this project, please email your details to [marianne@phambiliservices.co.za](mailto:marianne@phambiliservices.co.za), so that Phambili can come and setup your complex with a picker to start your recycling.



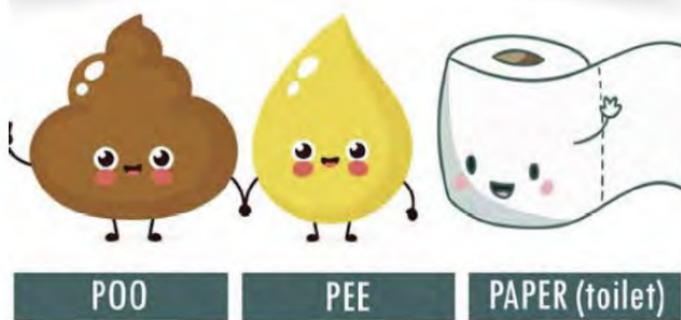
Recyclables to be placed in plastic bags are:								
Paper	Cardboard	Magazines & Newspapers	Plastics	Glass	Bottles	Milk and Juice Cartons	Cans	Jars

## WHAT DO YOU FLUSH DOWN YOUR TOILET??

Please **DO NOT** flush the following down your toilet or drain



Remember: ONLY FLUSH THE THREE P'S



Old rags, towels, face cloths



Nappies



Hair



Ear buds



Dental floss

Wet Wipes



Sanitary towels



Masks and gloves



Tampons



## Invasive Plants, Trees, Birds



The following summary is from Witt and Luke (2017):

**Description:** Annual herb (0.5–2 m tall); stems green, purple or brown, hairy to hairless; single stem divides into two branches, both of which again divide into two branches as they grow, and so on.

**Origin:** Unclear, but probably tropical America.

**Reason for Introduction:** Ornament and accidentally as a contaminant.

**Invades:** Roadsides, railways, disturbed land, wasteland, fallow land, crops, managed pasture, drainage ditches, woodland edges/gaps, lowlands, gullies and dry riverbeds.

**Impacts:** Competes aggressively with native plants and crops, forming dense monospecific stands. Infestations in the USA have resulted in a 56% yield loss in cotton. Yields of soybean plants growing within a distance of 1.2 m from a thorn apple plant are significantly reduced demonstrating the allelopathic impacts of this weed. In Spain, competition from thorn apple in irrigated maize has reduced yields by 56%. *D. stramonium* is also an alternative host for several pests and pathogens of solanaceous crops. Toxic to people, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens thorn apple has gained notoriety as a plant that is used by people to commit suicide.

From: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/18006#tosummaryOfInvasiveness>



Photos from : <https://www.environment.co.za/weeds-invaders-alien-vegetation/alien-invasive-plants-list-for-south-africa.html>

**Datura stramonium (Jimsonweed)**



**Xanthium spinosum (Burrweed)**

**Boetebossie [Afrikaans]**

*X. spinosum* is a highly invasive plant classified as one of the world's worst weeds, and is now widely distributed throughout many regions of the world, where it is a common agricultural and pasture weed and a declared noxious species in many countries. Originating in South America, it has spread widely, probably via its spiky seeds which attach to animals and clothing or are a contaminant of hay or other products. It produces prolific amounts of seed that germinate easily. *X. spinosum* can

quickly dominate large areas, outcompeting crops, forage plants and native flora. Control is possible but requires significant effort. There is considerable ongoing research into various methods including biological control.

From: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/56863#tosummaryOfInvasiveness>



Spear thistle ( *Cirsium vulgare* (Sa vi) Ten.; family Asteraceae) is a troublesome weed which occurs world-wide. Because of its prickly nature, animals cannot graze near the plant; subsequently the value of the grazing is reduced. The weed also rapidly proliferates on abandoned lands and otherwise disturbed soil, and competes with various crops.

**Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Ten.(spear thistle )**

Although the name scotch thistle has become generally adopted in South Africa, this creates much confusion since another thistle species, *Onopordium acanthium* L., is also known by the same common name in the USA. Therefore the name\_spear thistle is strongly recommended - in fact the plant is known as spear thistle throughout the world.

Spear thistle is so prickly that animals cannot graze near the plant. Since a fully grown leaf rosette can cover an area of 0,35 m<sup>2</sup>, the presence of the plant drastically reduces the carrying capacity of the veld. In lands it competes with crops, but does not cause such serious losses as in the case of grazing. In South Africa it is also variously known as bull thistle, black thistle or plume thistle. Commonly used Afrikaans names are 'speerdissel', 'skotse dissel' 'mak dissel', 'skaapdissel', 'disseldoring' and '(wilde) karmedik'.

From: <https://www.arc.agric.za/arc-ppri/Leaflets%20Library/Spear%20Thistle.pdf>

Photos from: <http://pza.sanbi.org/cirsium-vulgare>

## Advertisement Pricing

**Would you like to place an ad in our monthly Newsletter?**

**Half Page : R400/month**

**Full Page : R800/month**

**Please contact [info@vvra.co.za](mailto:info@vvra.co.za)**

**Small Ad : R50/month**

**Small Ad : R35/month**

**Quarter Page : R200/month.**

**Small Ad : R50/month**

**Small Ad : R85/month**

## Where to log calls

All road and storm related emergencies standby team 060 960 0764 (Midrand, Ivory Park, Diepsloot, Fourways, Woodmead)		
Level 1 water restrictions will be enforced by fines to consumers who contravened the Water Services By-law and consumers are urged to report non-compliance by phoning the JMPD 24/7 hotline on 011 758 9650	For billing assistance kindly contact: 011 358 3614\011 358 3562	
<b>Johannesburg Water</b>		
011-375-5555 or 011-688-1400 <a href="mailto:customer@jwater.co.za">customer@jwater.co.za</a>	Water Burst	48 Hours
SMS 076-333-5052	No Water	1 day
Anonymous tip-offs 0800-00-25-87 <a href="mailto:anticorruption@tip-offs.com">anticorruption@tip-offs.com</a>	Sewer	24 Hours
Midrand Depot 621 6th Road Erand: 011-205-9500	Meter Leak	7 Working days
	Fire Hydrant Leak	2 days
	Bees in meter box	3 days
<b>City Power</b>		
011-375-5555	No Power to area/property	4 Hours
086-056-2874 <a href="http://citypower.mobi">http://citypower.mobi</a>	Illegal Connection	24 Hours
<a href="https://za4.forcelink.net/forcelink/customportal/cp_mdt/customerportal.html">https://za4.forcelink.net/forcelink/customportal/cp_mdt/customerportal.html</a>	Dangerous Situation	Immediate
Report illegal connection 080 000 2587 <a href="mailto:anticorruption@tip-offs.com">anticorruption@tip-offs.com</a>	Street Light not working	2 working days
Cable Theft and illegal activities: 011 490 7553 or 0800 002 587	Meter Conversions	5 working days
Metering Queries Telephone :011 490 7484 SMS Line :44074 <a href="mailto:wmcqueries@citypower.co.za">wmcqueries@citypower.co.za</a>	Faulty Meter	7 working days
Pre-paid Queries: Telephone: 011 490 7484 <a href="mailto:estimations@citypower.co.za">estimations@citypower.co.za</a>		
<b>Johannesburg Road Agency</b>		
Joburg connect: 086-056-2874 011-298-5000 <a href="mailto:hotline@jra.org.za">hotline@jra.org.za</a> <a href="https://findandfix.jra.org.za:8443/">https://findandfix.jra.org.za:8443/</a>	Potholes	3 working days
Depot: 011 256 8550 6 Dale Road, corner Glen Austin Road, Midrand	Manhole Cover missing	3 days
Report faulty traffic lights on whatsapp to 082-827-8250	Blocked kerb inlet	3 days
	Road trenches	3 days
	Road Collapse/Dangerous Situation	Immediate to make road safe
	Stop/traffic signs damaged/missing	7 days
	Traffic Signals All Out	24 Hours
	Traffic Signal Flashing	24 Hours
<b>Pikitup</b>		
Joburg connect 086-056-2874 011-375-5555 <a href="mailto:info@pikitup.co.za">info@pikitup.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:joburgconnect@joburg.org.za">joburgconnect@joburg.org.za</a> <a href="http://www.pikitup.co.za/customer-services/">http://www.pikitup.co.za/customer-services/</a>	New/additional bin request	7 days
Midrand Depot: 82 Lechwe Street, Corporate Park: 087-357-1378	Animal Carcass removal	24 hours
Bulky Waste Service 087-357-1378	Cleaning of an Illegal Dumping site	7 days
Garden Site: Falcon Street, Rabie Ridge	Street cleaning, Lane flushing, Area cleaning	
Garden Site: Cedar Road, Kyalami	Bulk Waste collections	
Garden site: Dale Road, Glen Austin	Full details and Reg no. of vehicle	Photo if possible
	Illegal Dumping	
	e.g. old mattresses, old furniture, fridges etc	free-once a month
	Paper, Glass, Used car oil, Scrap metal, EWaste, Tins & Cardboard	
	Paper, plastics, boxes, cans ,ewaste & used oil	
	Paper, plastics, boxes, cans ,ewaste & used oil	
<b>City Parks</b>		
Joburg connect 086-056-2874 or 011 375 5555	Grass cutting in open spaces	Up to 30 days
City Parks and Zoo Switchboard: 011-712-6600 10177	Grass cutting of parks	Dependent on status of park
<a href="mailto:jcp@jhbcityparks.com">jcp@jhbcityparks.com</a> or <a href="mailto:joburgconnect@joburg.org.za">joburgconnect@joburg.org.za</a>	Grass cutting in cemeteries	7 days
	Fallen Tree/branches	24 hours
	Pruning of Tree	30 days
<b>Fire Department and Ambulance</b>		
Midrand Fire Department and Ambulance 011-375-5911 10177		
<b>South African Police Service</b>		
Midrand Police Station: 011-347-1600	c/o Smuts Drive & Oracle Street Halfway Gardens	
Sector 2 SAPS: 071-675-6110		
Relief Commanders: 071-675-6114		
Police Emergency - 10111 <a href="mailto:gps.midrand.sc.@saps.gov.za">gps.midrand.sc.@saps.gov.za</a>		
Crime Stop Tip-Off 08600 10111		
Hawks Anti-Corruption Desk: 012 846 4590 <a href="mailto:CorruptionReports@saps.gov.za">CorruptionReports@saps.gov.za</a>		
<b>Johannesburg Metro Police Department</b>		
011 375 5918 / 5911	Traffic Violations	Dependent on incident and resources available
JMPD 24 - hour Traffic Hotline 080-872-3342	Noise	
Illegal dumping: 082-779-1361 (Whatsapp)	Dumping	
	Motor Vehicle Accident	
	Vagrants	