

# Makeover planned for Parow station

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The Development Action Group (DAG) presented a research project conducted on the Parow Station Arcade and provided various recommendations on how to improve the space. The research was done on behalf of the Greater Tygerberg Partnership in an effort to better outline how the 14 hectares of land can be improved.

Ryan Fester, the lead researcher, says the recommendations were made after mapping pedestrian movement routes and interviewing the City of Cape Town, Law Enforcement, property developers and the VRCID. Interviews were also conducted with formal businesses and informal traders, as well as civic organisations.

"We furthermore did 120 surveys to find out from the public what their concerns are and to find out what they recommend should be done to improve the space," he says.

Fester says the survey revealed that people who travel in and out of the station arcade are concerned about crime, while some of the informal traders revealed that they pay 'gangster tax'. Other concerns include drug dealing, prostitution, taxi violence, health and hygiene, and illegal gambling.

Fester says their recommendations include greening Parow Station Arcade, formalising the trading space to ensure that pedestrians' movements and visibility are not restricted, upgrading the buildings to complement the space, and improving vibrancy in the area with a mix of housing options.

"We also need to establish a multi-stakeholder forum to ensure that we avoid top-down planning, as everyone who makes use of the space must feel part of it," Fester says.

Ward councillor Franchesca Walker urges everyone to work together as partners to bring about change. "We will present the results of the research to the community and then we hope to start the project in the new financial year," she says.

# Workshops to help the youth find jobs

YoungPeople@Work is inviting unemployed youth to their upcoming free youth empowerment workshops to be held at the Bellville Library on Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 April.

Each workshop starts at 09:00 and ends at 13:00.

The facilitators are Frank Julie and Shirley de Jongh.

Participants will learn more about professional job-seeking skills, how to search for a job professionally, and how to develop a powerful CV.

Participants will also learn more about what companies are looking for, interviewing skills, how the job market operates, how to network with the right people, how to use social media in the job search process, and how to develop a job search plan.

There is also an opportunity to learn more about basic bookkeeping skills, record keeping, handling of cheques and online banking, receipts, reading bank statements, reconciliations, reporting and petty cash.

The facilitators will also focus on basic office administration, the role of a receptionist, telephone etiquette, filing, diary management, bookings and minute taking.

Current employment and further study opportunities will also be shared.

Participants will also be assisted with setting up their CV and a free email account.

Certificates will be issued on completion of the workshop.

Tea and coffee will be served, but participants are requested to provide their own lunch.

To book your spot contact Shirley via WhatsApp or sms on 073 820 1534.

▶What is your opinion on this article? Let us know at [briewe@tygerburger.co.za](mailto:briewe@tygerburger.co.za).



Their presence worth more than presents: The team of helpers, consisting of representatives from ESI Attorneys from Tyger Valley and Ikamva Ubomi, staff members and members of the community, who gathered at Vorentoe Primary school to assist with the painting of the school. Seated second from left are ESI director Zayaan Samuels, school principal Elmara September (centre, in yellow shirt), ESI public relations officer Mary-Ann McHardy, and ESI director Jacques Esterhuizen.

# Holiday spent revamping

JAY-DEE CYSTER  
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Staff members at Vorentoe Primary School in Ravensmead will be spending a large part of their holidays at the school in an effort to revamp its facilities.

The project, the brainchild of ESI Attorneys based in Tyger Valley, forms part of the firm's corporate social investment (CSI) initiative.

"We have adopted the school for the next three years," says the firm's public relations officer, Mary-Ann McHardy. "Our immediate goals include upgrading the library, which includes sourcing book donations, as well as upgrading the staff room, kitchen facilities and administrative block," says McHardy. "We want to make things a bit better for both teachers and learners at the school."

Other parties approached by ESI for this effort include non-profit organisation (NPO) Ikamva Ubomi, as well as JF Paints.

On Friday, ESI Attorneys closed their doors for the day and brought along all their employees to assist with the painting of the inside of the school. School principal, Elmara September, members of the community, school staff members and employees from the assisting groups were all ready to get painting.



Vorentoe Primary School principal, Elmara September, assisting with the painting of the school's foyer. PHOTOS: JAY-DEE CYSTER

Eugene Walker, CEO and founder of Ikamva Ubomi, who could also be seen with a paintbrush in hand, says that the NPO is focused on getting the community involved

in the project. "Our focus is on building cohesive communities," says Walker.

"We don't only want to rely on our government to make things happen. Our presence here is worth more than presents," Walker adds.

Representatives from JP Paints, who donated the paint, were also present, with regional sales manager, Urmarie de Lange, expressing her excitement at being involved in this project.

September says, "I've been at the school for the past 18 years and this is the first time that sponsors have come forward to support us. It's good to know that they are able to see the need in the community."

September says that initially ESI was only going to upgrade the library, but after assessing the various needs of the school they decided to enter into a three-year partnership in order to make more of a difference in the lives of the teachers and learners at the school.

"We have identified that we need to focus on the teachers and their morale as well. That is why we will be developing a teacher's hub to ensure that they feel motivated," says September.

"We've been at the school the entire holiday and it is tiring, but it's a satisfying tiredness. This is our school's new beginning."

# Gamers battle it out during Gaming Day

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The I-CAN Centre in Elsies River aims to build healthy communities through gaming and awareness of digital opportunities for young people.

And in an effort to allow young people to play games online and compete with other gamers around the world, the centre hosted a Gaming Day that saw about 121 gamers compete in the event.

I-CAN Centre manager Llewellyn Scholtz says many young people are faced with challenges in their local communities, but turn to gaming to be safe in their homes.

"Parents also feel safe if they know their children are safe. Gaming has created a platform where young people come together and compete against one another. This digital activity has enormous potential to drive gamers to become IT developers, which the country is currently lacking," he says.

Scholtz says South Africa is faced with a lack of high-end digital skills, but if young people are assisted and pushed to become high-end IT developers, then gaming must be their launch pad toward success.

"Through our event we urge gamers to pursue a career in gaming development, as it helps to develop cognitive skills through strategic gaming," he says.

He adds that the gaming event was started in an effort to move the youth away from peer pressure, gangsterism and sub-

stance abuse, as these are all factors damaging today's youth.

"Young people find gaming really exciting, as it is a new way to interact with youth of other communities," Scholtz says.

He adds that the gaming day succeeded in its purpose of bringing together youth from different communities, including Bonteheuwel, Manenberg, Bishop Lavis, Elsies River, Ravensmead and Delft.

Hilario Esau, the Street Fighter I-CAN champion, says he entered for fun but in the back of his mind he was in it to win it.

"I was really excited and overwhelmed because I won the Street Fighter competition for the third time. Being a champ feels good," he says.

Yannick Vermeulen, the Naruto Fighting I-CAN champion, says he had never won a competition in his life before, and receiving a trophy for winning his favourite game was awesome.

"I have an Xbox at home that I play every day, but this competition helped me improve my skills and I beat guys that are



From left are Llewellyn Scholtz (I-CAN Centre manager), Abdouraf Barnes (gaming club member) and Yannick Vermeulen winner of the Naruto Ninja Storm Fighting competition.

older than me," he says.

Tohier Abrahams from Mitchells Plain, who is the FIFA Soccer and Rugby I-CAN champion, says his friend told him about the event and how people battle each other to win prizes. He entered the competition because there is nothing else like it in his community.

"The most fun part of this competition was the crowd cheering for me being called up and announced as the winner of the tournament. It helps knowing that there is always room for improvement and that no matter how hard the challenge, never give up," he says.