

# NEWSLETTER



Witzenberg Municipality hosted a delegation from the Essen, Belgium for two weeks at the beginning of October. A full itinerary was planned for the delegation to visit various stakeholders, sites and projects, and meet with strategic partners in our area. More details will be published in the next newsletter.



CLLR TREVOR ABRAHAMS  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

## From the Mayor's Desk

Good day All

It is my great pleasure to announce to you that we have achieved a 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive clean audit report from the Auditor General of South Africa. This means our municipal finance management is sound, effective and efficient. We continuously strive to improve service delivery to Witzenberg.

All learners, teachers and support staff have now returned back from the October school holiday, and gear up towards the end of the year. To all the matriculants in our municipal area, we wish you all the best for the upcoming final national examinations. May you achieve great success!

I would also like to thank our twinning municipality partners from Essen, Belgium for their visit at the beginning of October 2025 and for continuously supporting and guiding us on various activities and projects, focussing on amongst other sport development and waste management. We had a full itinerary and two weeks hosting the Essen delegation, and hope it was a fruitful visit and exchange of information for both.

In this edition, you can read on various municipal related activities and events and more importantly, the roleplayers who work tirelessly (mostly behind the scenes) and helped us achieve our 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive clean audit. Kudos to you all! Thank you to the greater community of Witzenberg too. God bless!







Pictured: In front from LtoR are German Lukas, Head: Law Enforcement and Witzenberg Safety Forum Chairperson, Cllr Katriena Robyn, Alderman Ronald Visagie (Ward Councillor), Cllr Sophia de Bruin and with NHW and CPF volunteers from PA Hamlet and Op die Berg in the back row.

## Boost for community safety!

Witzenberg Municipality recently handed over much-needed safety equipment to the Prince Alfred Hamlet Community Policing Forum (CPF) and related Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) in PA Hamlet and Op die Berg in order to equip those on the ground who are assisting us to keep our communities safe and to promote community safety in the greater municipal area. This initiative by the newly established Witzenberg Community Safety Forum was funded by the Cape Winelands District Municipality for local safety projects to assist in the fight against crime. The equipment that was handed over include: flashlights and batteries, as well as safety boots.

## ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

Following a study regarding the cost of electricity supply that was undertaken by the municipality, the tariffs will be phased in from 1 July 2025 until the 2027/28 financial year.

The purpose of the study, as required by NERSA, was to determine the actual cost for the provision of electricity to various consumers. Certain costs are regarded as fixed costs, i.e. costs that are not affected by the actual consumption of electricity. These costs must be financed by the fixed charges such as basic fees and capacity charges.

Electricity tariffs for household consumers with credit meters have been adjusted as follows:

	2024/2025	2025/2026	Aanpassing
Basies		135.65	Nuut
Kapasiteit heffing per Amp.		6.88	Nuut
0 – 600 kWh	2.93	2.33	-20.4%
601 en meer kWh	4.71	3.96	-15.8%

It is estimated that the electricity cost of a residential consumer with a credit meter, 60-amp connection and an electricity consumption of 800 kWh per month will increase by 11.3%.

Consumers have the choice to reduce the connection size (amp), but this may necessitate improved planning of electricity usage, and they may not be able to use all equipment at the same time.

Fortunately, NERSA approved the pre-paid electricity tariffs for 2025/26 without any fixed costs. Consumers therefore have a further option to change to a pre-paid electricity meter.



Executive Deputy Mayor Cllr. Jonathan Nel

Bringing government closer to the people, the Imbizo in PA Hamlet tackled one of our nation's most pressing challenges.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development hosted a Community Imbizo in the PA Hamlet area of the Witzenberg Municipality, focusing on the urgent issues of gender-based violence and femicide.

Our Executive Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Jonathan Nel, who warmly welcomed all delegates, including the National Deputy Minister, Mr. Andries Nel. The Imbizo served as a powerful platform for dialogue, awareness, and collective action in the fight against GBVF.



LtoR: Western Cape Provincial Minister of Health and Wellness Mireille Wenger, Executive Mayor Cllr Trevor Abrahams and Ald. Dirk Swart

## Collaborative Effort Delivers New Burn Unit to Ceres Hospital

The new **Burn Unit** at **Ceres Hospital** officially opened today, bringing specialised care closer to rural communities. This milestone was made possible through a partnership between the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness and the Children's Hospital Trust, with clinical support from **Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital**.

The opening was supported by Executive Mayor Cllr Trevor Abrahams, who welcomed the facility as a vital investment in local healthcare. The unit aims to reduce the need for long distance referrals and improve outcomes through early intervention. It marks a major step forward in delivering equitable, quality healthcare for the Witzenberg region.



# 12th Consecutive Clean Audit for Witzenberg

*"As the Executive Mayor of Witzenberg Municipality, I am grateful to our Heavenly Father to announce that we have received our 12th consecutive Clean Audit Report from the office of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AG). A Clean Audit status is an indication that: the financial statements are free from any material misstatement; the municipality complies with the relevant legislation and regulations; the necessary controls are in place, and; that the Annual Report is a true reflection of the municipality, as measured against the proposed targets. I hereby express my appreciation to the council members and staff of the municipality for their dedication in these challenging times."*

**- Executive Mayor, Cllr Trevor Abrahams**



**EXECUTIVE MAYOR WITH SOME OF THE WITZENBERG COUNCILLORS**



**HOUSING COMMITTEE**



**MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S OFFICE**



**LED & TOURISM COMMITTEE**



**MPAC & SENIOR MANAGEMENT**



**FINANCE DIRECTORATE**



**MAYORAL COMMITTEE (MAYCO)**



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**CORPORATE SERVICES**



**MPAC**



**TECHNICAL SERVICES**



**COUNCIL & SENIOR MANAGEMENT**



**TECHNICAL SERVICES**

For municipal updates and news – Like us on Facebook: Witzenberg Municipality – Official





## JUNIOR TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

A Junior Town Council (JTC) community programme, a community initiative to educate learners and the broader community about the operations and role of the Municipality (Local Government), was recently launched in the Witzenberg.

The very first JTC members were inducted during a special inauguration ceremony held in the Ceres Town Hall on 17 September 2025. The current JTC consists of 12 learners from four different school: Bella Vista High School, Charlie Hofmeyr High School, De Eike Primary School and Ingcingazethu High School. The theme: "Where Young Ideas Shape a Better Town".

However, it is important to note that this is NOT a municipal structure nor a formal programme of the municipality. The Municipality only provides logistical support where needed and possible.

The JTC is an initiative that was started by a group of former educators who are connected to various schools in our municipal area. They have communicated recently that they invited all local schools in the Witzenberg area to participate in the programme, but only four schools opted to participate this year.

The programme aims to inform learners about the daily operations of the Municipality, the various municipal services offered, the Municipal systems and structures, and what is expected from the Town Council. Its aim is to educate and empower youth in understanding local governance and basic service delivery.

The JTC members will also assist with community-based programmes related to uplifting the youth, sport, social issues, skill development and more. The group of facilitating teachers hope that more schools will participate in future.

### NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR: TECHNICAL SERVICES

We are pleased to welcome Mr Jaco Steyn to the Witzenberg Municipality as the newly appointed Director: Technical Services. With more than 30 years of valuable experience in local government, Mr Steyn brings a deep understanding of municipal operations and a strong commitment to service delivery. As a highly qualified Civil Engineer, he joins us from the Breede Valley Municipality, where he made significant contributions through his technical expertise and leadership. We are confident that Mr Steyn's extensive knowledge and dedication will be a great asset to our municipality, driving innovation and enhancing our service to the community. We wish him every success in his new role and trust that his time at Witzenberg Municipality will be both rewarding and enjoyable.



## REVENUE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (REP)

Improving Services for everyone in  
Witzenberg

**What's Happening?**

The Revenue Enhancement Programme (REP) started on 6 May 2025 and runs until October 2026.

- It is supported by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and implemented by Mamadi & Company.

**Purpose of the programme**

- Improve how revenue is collected and managed
- Fix customer billing issues
- Verify and audit electricity meters
- Ensure better funding for roads, water, and electricity upgrades

**What Residents Should Know**

- Electricity Meter Audit → Starting September 2025, fieldworkers will inspect and verify electricity meters. Full schedules and notices will be shared before visits.
- Better Services → Improved revenue = better roads, reliable water supply, upgraded electricity systems, and stronger infrastructure.

**Why It Matters**

By improving how we manage revenue, the Municipality can:

- Maintain and upgrade essential services
- Reduce service interruptions
- Build a financially secure municipality that serves the community better.

**Your cooperation will help make Witzenberg stronger for everyone!**



## CWDM launched Tourism Month in the picturesque Witzenberg!

The Cape Winelands District Municipality this year launched Tourism Month in September at the stunning Loxtonia Ciders, situated in Ceres in the Witzenberg. Executive Mayor Cllr Trevor Abrahams played host to various Mayors and councillors from neighbouring municipalities in the Cape Winelands. Tourism Month is dedicated to celebrating the rich heritage, vibrant culture, and breath-taking scenery of our region. This year, Witzenberg shines a spotlight on the unique charm of Tulbagh, the adventurous spirit of Ceres and the tranquil beauty of Wolseley and the surrounding areas and attractions. Witzenberg has something for everyone! Visit our area for an unforgettable stay. More details on our area and three Tourism offices situated in Ceres, Wolseley and Tulbagh respectively: <https://visitwittenberg.co.za/>.



Pictured: LtoR Witzenberg Ald. Dirk Swart, Breede Valley Executive Mayor Ald. Antoinette Steyn, Cape Winelands District Executive Mayor Ald. (Dr) Elna von Schlicht, Lisa Louw from Loxtonia, Cape Winelands Executive Deputy Mayor Ald. Margaret Sampson, Langeberg Executive Deputy Mayor Ald. Christopher J. Grootboom, Witzenberg Executive Mayor Cllr. Trevor Abrahams, Witzenberg Ald. Ronald Visagie (Mayco: LED & Tourism) and Cape Winelands District Municipality Cllr. Koos Steyn (Mayco: Tourism).



### Witzenberg staff celebrates Women's Day in style!



On Friday, 29 August the remarkable women of Witzenberg Municipality came together in unity and celebration at a Women's Day Luncheon hosted by Alderlady Elizabeth Sidego, Speaker of the Witzenberg Council.

The event was a vibrant and joyful occasion, filled with music, dance, and exciting prize giveaways. This year's theme, "Accelerate Action", served as a powerful call to arms, encouraging every woman to raise her voice, take bold steps and become the change she wishes to see in the world. It was more than just a celebration; it was a moment of reflection, solidarity and empowerment. Together we honoured the strength, resilience and brilliance of women from all walks of life. And in doing so, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to shaping a future where every woman is heard, valued and free to lead.

### Recycling Workshop held with various stakeholders

Solid Waste hosted a successful and engaging day in Prince Alfred Hamlet, made possible by Petco and the Regional Recycling Officer, Ms Senamile Mvuyana, who organised the workshop. The event brought together Wastepickers, Councillors, Witzenberg municipal staff (both current and retired), as well as Buy-Back Centre owners and entrepreneurs.

The aim was to share Petco's mission and vision while encouraging recycling as a shared responsibility. Their slogan, "You see trash, we see treasure," was vividly demonstrated throughout the day. This initiative was warmly received, reinforcing the message that effective waste management relies on everyone's contribution. With such promising collaboration, this is just the beginning of exciting developments in waste management for the Witzenberg community.

### Tune in to WRFM for municipal info & news!

Witzenberg Municipality will be doing a series of live radio interviews with local community radio station WRFM 105.9 on any and everything municipal related. Topics and themes will range from finance matters and the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process, to library and environmental services, municipal facilities and disaster management, to name but a few. The planned radio slots will cover all directorates and sections within the municipality to educate and inform all on municipal related operations and news. Tune in to WRFM 105.9 every Tuesday and or Thursday at 11:00 and watch our socials for weekly themes and topics to be covered.



WRFm 105.9



# WITZENBERG INDIGENT DRIVE

Witzenberg Municipality will be embarking on an Indigent Drive as from 5 September 2025 to sign up new qualifying beneficiaries and renew the benefits of existing beneficiaries.

## How this will work:

- The drive will take place **every Friday** and will start in Op die Berg on 5 September 2025 in the form of house calls.
- Thereafter, Prince Alfred Hamlet (PAH), Bella Vista, N'duli, Ceres, Wolsley and Tulbagh will be served. (**Schedule to be finalised**)
- We now operate on a **new electronic indigent registration system**, called the Indigent Management System (IMS).
- The IMS **quickens** the Indigent **application process** and is more efficient, to serve the community better at service points.
- The **normal supporting documents** required for the application process still apply, and must be brought along.

## CONTACT US:

For any related enquiries,  
call 023 316 1854

OR

send an email to:  
[lwessels@witzenberg.gov.za](mailto:lwessels@witzenberg.gov.za) /  
[m.muller@witzenberg.gov.za](mailto:m.muller@witzenberg.gov.za)

## PLEDGE NOW & PLANT LATER

### Support the 1-Million tree campaign

Indigenous pioneer species forests are life! Forests are the most productive, self-sustaining, terrestrial ecosystems on Earth. They also require little maintenance once established.

### About the Campaign

The Western Cape Pledge-Trees-Now-&-Plant-Later Campaign, is a major forest restoration programme in support of the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment National Greening Programme Goal, of planting 1-Million trees over five years.

### Our Goal

Our goal is to restore forests across the Western Cape, by planting indigenous species, to help mitigate the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. Help us reach our goal and please pledge to help restore our forests today! Pledge now (in 2025) by completing the [Pledge Form on this link](#) and continue to plant up until 2028 (plant-later).

### Why are we doing this?

Trees improve people's lives - produce oxygen, filter the air and water, prevent soil erosion, help curb climate change, provide habitat for wildlife and offer economic benefits. However, around the world forests are being cut at alarming rates to the point where these ecosystems have lost the ability to provide the benefits we rely on.

### Your Contribution

Forest restoration can help increase the capacity to store harmful emissions that cause climate change. You can help restore South Africa's forests in a way that ensures their long-term survival while benefiting people, nature and the climate.



## Free Workshop held for Spaza Shop Owners in Witzenberg

Witzenberg Municipality in collaboration with the Municipal Health Services Section of the Cape Winelands District Municipality recently presented a free workshop in Ceres for spaza shop owners from across the Witzenberg municipal area. The objective was to teach the spaza shop owners specifically how to ensure the health and safety of their shops and customers, thus community food safety. They could learn more about: food handling and hygiene standards; municipal requirements; certification and inspections; safe storage and temperature control; and labelling of prepacked food and snacks. The programme also included information sessions on: town planning and land use applications for spaza shops; Business licensing and spaza shop financial assistance; Vending and prepaid electricity; Law Enforcement; Municipal Health Services and Certification of Acceptability; and the Purpose and Objectives of the National Empowerment Fund for spaza shops.





### CLARIFICATION ON SPAZA SHOP FUND ELIGIBILITY

We've noticed some confusion about our programme eligibility criteria:

To clarify, our programme is **OPEN TO ALL ENTREPRENEURS REGARDLESS OF AGE**. You don't have to be 35 or under to participate.

Priority will be given to youth, women, and people with disabilities.

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Anyone with a passion for entrepreneurship, has a registered spaza shop with their local municipality and has a desire to grow their business can apply.

**APPLY NOW:** [www.spazashopfund.co.za](http://www.spazashopfund.co.za) **CALL:** 011 305 8080





### WHAT'S IN THE R100 000 SUPPORT PACKAGE?

- **R40 000** grant for stock
- **R50 000** (blended grant/loan) for shop upgrades like fridges & shelving
- **R10 000** value in business training & digital tools

**Apply Now:** [www.spazashopfund.co.za](http://www.spazashopfund.co.za)



Municipalities need a reliable source of revenue to provide basic services to all. It is important to pay your municipal account on time and in full. **AVOID** penalties, disconnection, debt! You **CAN** make a payment arrangement if in arrears.

#### BASIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

- Electricity
- Water supply
- Sewage collection & disposal
- Refuse removal
- Street lighting
- Law Enforcement
- Construction
- Roads & Sidewalks
- Drainage
- Facilities
- Buildings
- Parks
- Recreational facilities
- Cemeteries
- Libraries
- Administration
- Finance



#### PAYMENT METHODS:

CASH - CARD - EFT  
SCAN - EASYPAY - RETAILERS

#### BANKING DETAILS:

NAME OF ACCOUNT:  
WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY  
NAME OF BANK:  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
BRANCH CODE: 200107  
ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
627 482 18444

## The Witzenberg ENTREPRENEURSHIP Academy

FREE TO ALL WITZENBERG RESIDENTS



Free online short courses to help you start and grow your business & **LEARN NEW SKILLS**



SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For any queries, contact the Manager:  
Local Economic Development (LED) at  
[riaan@witzenberg.gov.za](mailto:riaan@witzenberg.gov.za) or the LED Officer [wilmut@witzenberg.gov.za](mailto:wilmut@witzenberg.gov.za)

[witzenberg.thestartuptribe.org](http://witzenberg.thestartuptribe.org)



NEW VENUE WITH UPDATED START/FINISH AREA  
LYELL STREET SPORTSGROUND, CERES, 6835

# CERES MICHELL'S PASS HALF MARATHON

SAT, 25 OCTOBER 2025 AT 07:00

10 KM ROAD RACE AT 07:15  
5KM FUN RUN AT 07:20

**FARM/COMPANY RACE CHALLENGE  
ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ASA AND BA**

Event	Time
All Registration	05:30
Half Marathon	07:00
10km Road Race	07:15
Fun Run 5km	07:20
Prize-giving	10:30

COLLECTION OF RACE NUMBERS ON  
FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2025 FROM 10:00 TO 16:00  
OR ON RACE DAY

**CLOSING DATE OF PRE-ENTRIES: 11 OCTOBER 2025**

**REGISTRATION ONLINE**

[WWW.ENTRYNINJA.COM](http://WWW.ENTRYNINJA.COM)



CERES KERSMARK '25  
CHRISTMAS MARKET  
PERDEKRAAL EAST WIND FARM IN  
COLLABORATION WITH WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY

## SAVE THE DATE!

13/14 DECEMBER 2025

WITH LIGHTS, STALLS, ENTERTAINMENT,  
KIDDIES CORNER AND MUCH MORE. FULL DETAILS TO FOLLOW

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## TULBAGH WITZENVILLE FAIRE

**PRESENTS**  
**GUEST ARTIST: EARLY B**  
**FRIDAY 05 DEC, 2025**

**WITZENBERG**  
CAPE WINDLAND DISTRICT  
Tulbagh

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
**TULBAGH TOURISM**  
023 230 1375/48  
[tulbaghtourism01@gmail.com](mailto:tulbaghtourism01@gmail.com)

**STAY TUNED  
FOR  
MORE INFO**

**WITZENVILLE  
SPORTS  
GROUND**