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DECEMBER ISSUE 2025




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Disclaimer: This e-Magazine is produced especially for residents/owners of The Hills Estate to provide updates and useful information. It is produced by K-Studio on behalf of The Hills Estate HOA. Although every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of content, The Hills Estate HOA and/or the Publisher, cannot be held liable for any inaccurate information, and may not agree with all opinions expressed in this publication.



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LETTER FROM *Management*

Celebrating 2025 with joy!

As the curtain falls on 2025, the Hills Estate Management team reflects on a remarkable year of transformation and growth within our beloved estate.

With heartfelt gratitude, we recognize the contributions of every resident who has played a role in our journey towards excellence.

This past year has been nothing short of excellent, filled with improvements that have enhanced our communal living.

Enhancements at the Game Reserve

This year, the estate's entrance into the game reserve received a major facelift. New landscaping has created a more welcoming entrance, complemented by walking pathways that encourage residents to enjoy the natural surroundings.

Also, in an effort to support local ecosystems, owl and bat boxes have been installed throughout the reserve, helping maintain a healthy balance of our ecosystems.

We have also installed functioning drinking fountain along the walkways within the reserve. Residents are encouraged to stop and refresh themselves. The water is clean and safe!

Restaurant Revamp and Management Change

We are excited to usher in a new dining experience with the anticipated opening of our new restaurant. Part of the restaurant project has been to renovate it. The renovation aims to modernize the space and provide residents with a more contemporary and inviting dining experience.

We can't wait for our residents to experience the new restaurant next year!

Improved Security Measures

To bolster estate security, new internal CCTV cameras have been installed along the streets of the estate. Areas are now equipped with surveillance technology, offering residents

greater peace of mind.

Speed cameras are also in place, serving as a friendly reminder to adhere to speed limits. Residents are encouraged to communicate these limits to their visitors for everyone's safety.

Dam Rehabilitation and Landscaping

Efforts to beautify and preserve the estate's dam have been successful. Overgrown weeds have been cleared, and new landscaping along the dam's edge creates a scenic vista for residents. Additional trees have also been planted as part of the estate's tree planting initiative.

New Street Signs

To improve navigation for our visitors and our residents, street signage walls have been built at key junctions, including the T-junction at Impala Road and Royal Albatross Road, as well as at the circle leading to the gym and restaurant. The final installation of beautifully designed signs will take place in the new year.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, the Hills Management team extends heartfelt appreciation for the support and enthusiasm shown by our residents. We look forward to continuing our efforts in creating an even better haven for all in the upcoming year.

Security: Holiday Season Precautions

As the festive season approaches, we remind all residents to remain vigilant to ensure the safety and security of our estate. Please take note of the following important security updates and guidelines:

Access Control

- Ensure all visitors are sent access codes to avoid delays at the gates.
- Residents are reminded not to share access codes with unverified individuals.

Safety Reminders:

- Secure all doors, windows, and sliding doors when leaving home, even for short periods.
- Avoid leaving valuables visible from outside.

Estate Rules & Conduct:

- Speed limits within the estate remain strictly enforced.
- Pets must be under control at all times and may not roam freely.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately to the Security Control Room.

Fireworks Prohibited: Fireworks are strictly prohibited within The Hills Game Reserve Estate. They pose a serious risk to our wildlife, pets, and vegetation and may result in fines according to estate rules and bylaws.

Wildlife Safety Reminder

As wildlife roam freely within our estate, please drive cautiously, especially at night. Feeding the animals is strictly prohibited, as it disrupts their natural behaviour and creates risks for both residents and the herd.

HOA Office Closure

Please note that the HOA Office will be closed for the festive season to allow the team time to rest and recharge.

The office will be closed from 22nd December 2025 and will reopen on the 5th January 2026.

Thank you for an incredible 2025, and here's to a vibrant future at Hills Estate!



Festive WISHES

To our valued clients and those yet to join us, may your Festive season be elegant and your **New Year** extraordinary.



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NAVIGATING THE ENERGY CHALLENGE

The relationship between South Africans and their power supply has fundamentally changed. Reliability is now a concern for every homeowner and business owner, and the financial pressure of utility costs continues to rise. The shift is clear: taking control of your energy is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity for maintaining comfort, productivity, and the long-term value of your property. This proactive approach secures your lifestyle against external volatility and transforms a running cost into a tangible asset.

FINDING YOUR SEAMLESS POWER SOLUTION

When evaluating backup or alternative power, the focus should be on longevity, efficiency, and expert support. It's essential to look beyond the initial cost and consider the quality of the components and the service backing your investment. A true power solution should feel seamless, giving you unwavering confidence regardless of what the grid is doing. A well-chosen system should integrate discreetly into your home, operating silently while delivering dependable performance 24/7.



KEY COMPONENTS OF A RELIABLE SYSTEM

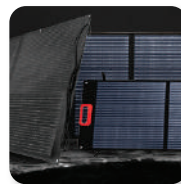
Modern energy solutions combine several key elements to deliver genuine independence:



Look for high-performance panels paired with robust hybrid inverters and high-capacity lithium-ion batteries. These systems are the core of reducing your grid reliance and significantly cutting monthly energy expenses. The correct selection ensures maximum energy harvest and optimal storage for continuous usage.



For flexible, guaranteed continuity, portable and fixed home backup power stations offer reliable power for essential appliances. They ensure your routine remains uninterrupted during load-shedding or unexpected outages.



The best equipment is useless without professional guidance. Seek out providers who offer comprehensive support; from an initial consultation and compliant installation to full, long-term maintenance. The installer's reputation and commitment to after-sales service is the most critical factor in the long-term success of your system.



YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Choosing an alternative energy system is a significant decision. You are not just buying hardware; you are investing in peace of mind, financial stability, and the future efficiency of your home. By focusing on premium components and dedicated local support, you can reclaim control over your energy and your lifestyle.

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HORIZON

Outdoor Collection



Founded in contrast, the materials and textures in our latest outdoor collection are a metaphor for harmony and balance. Through this opposition, beauty is created. The tension of the sun disappearing behind the horizon line, the jagged mountain's edge that frames a valley, the refreshing dusk air that cools the soil after a sweltering day – that is where beauty rests. Rare South African terrains, speckled with fynbos and perennial plants define a unique landscape. One that contains multitudes. Unlike any other, this land finds itself defined by a symbiotic relationship between predator and prey, drought and rain, dawn and dusk. Their dialogue carrying over valleys, ancient rock carvings,

and rivers that lead to open oceans. Through hardship and dry spells, a new kind of landscape is born – one we can call home. Smoke finishes on hand-selected pieces of teak, rich in oil and confident in grain, mimic the mountain curves through rigid frames. These elemental pieces are designed to age with the land – weathering and wearing to show the markings of their journeys.

This season also introduces new modular sofa ranges – the Paloma and Havana – designed for both outdoors and in. Generously proportioned and deeply inviting, these pieces embody the collection's spirit of natural ease and adaptability.

The modular design allows for fluid configurations that shift with the rhythm of daily life, whether for moments of solitude or shared gatherings beneath open skies.

Upholstered in weather-resistant fabrics with a soft, tactile feel, each element invites rest and conversation, offering comfort that endures through the seasons. Complementing these are our loungers, sculpted in shape and scale, designed for languid afternoons and sun-drenched pauses. Their generous proportions and gentle curves echo the undulating lines of the horizon itself – relaxed, grounded, and timeless.

In between harsh sun rays that penetrate the surface of the earth and rough sands that erode mountain faces, the quiet power of nature is revealed. In the hurried scurrying of a dung beetle, in the trailing call of a crane – our collection this year shows our reverence for natural forces. It is a recognition that life continues in subtle gestures and small moments, where patience and observation reveal the true story of a place. The interplay of light and shadow, the changing colour of the sky, and the gentle shifting of grasses in the wind are all captured in the spirit of this collection, reminding us that outdoor spaces are alive, breathing, and ever-changing.



Woven rope details evoke unreplicable patterns of veining leaves and indigenous thicket. Crafted to withstand and hold, these pieces carry the stories of their craft in between intertwined strands. Each rope, carefully selected and handwoven, creates a network of texture and strength, recalling the delicate complexity of the ecosystems that inspired them. The craftsmanship embedded in every twist and knot is a dialogue between human hands and the natural world, bridging tradition and contemporary design. Rope, river, sand, wood. Constantly moving. Evolving through this generation and the next. Statues that remain long after they have been witnessed. This season, explore the wild, raw, and bold metamorphosis of design through the lens of tension. It is a celebration of resilience and endurance, of the quiet beauty found in natural forms, and of the dialogue between strength and fragility.

"I've seen many horizons in my life. From Indonesia to Namibia, they inspire me to think bigger. That's how I wanted this collection to feel. Like a beautiful moment in time."
– Chris Weylandt

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Time to Pause & Replenish

Natural Self-Care Rituals for a Warm Summer Season

Summer carries a special kind of energy. The days feel brighter, the evenings stretch longer and life takes on a lighter rhythm. Yet with the excitement of the festive season often comes a sense of being pulled in many directions at once. It becomes easy to lose touch with your own needs. This is why creating moments of quiet care for your whole body becomes so important. True wellness is not only about your skin. It is everything that helps you feel grounded, clear and fully present.

“Choose to fill your own cup first so you can move through the season feeling grounded, glowing and renewed.”

Your body speaks quietly. A tight shoulder. A restless mind. A tired breath that wants to deepen. When you take

a moment to pause, you begin to hear what your body has been trying to tell you. A warm stretch in the morning can release the tension you’ve been carrying. A mindful walk outdoors can soften the mood of a busy day. Even a long drink of cold water can bring a refreshing sense of presence back into your body.

Movement becomes one of the most intuitive ways to reconnect. Not a workout that drains you, but slow, intentional motion that supports your natural rhythm. A gentle stretch in the shade. A few slow steps barefoot on cool tiles. A light dance in the kitchen to your favourite song. When movement feels kind, your whole body responds.

Breathing is another quiet form of nourishment. A few unhurried breaths can instantly shift the body from tension to ease. In warm weather, deep breathing also helps calm the nervous system,

regulate temperature and steady the mind. When you breathe with intention, your whole body softens, from the shoulders to the heartbeat.

Natural comforts help guide this slower way of living. A cup of herbal tea to soothe the afternoon heat. A cooling mist made with mint or cucumber to refresh the senses. A light massage with a nourishing body oil to ease tired muscles and bring a moment of peace. These are not elaborate rituals. They are simple acts that remind your body it is cared for.

Wellness also comes from how you nourish yourself. Hydrating fruits and crisp greens help you feel lighter in warm weather. Water infused with fresh ingredients keeps the body balanced and energised. Eating slowly encourages better digestion and gives the whole body a chance to unwind.

Rest is just as important. The body restores itself when you give it time to settle. A short afternoon pause in a cool room. A calming evening routine with dim lights. A relaxing soak with salts or gentle essential oils that invite the muscles to release. When rest becomes part of your rhythm, the body begins to rejuvenate naturally.

The mind also needs spaciousness. Writing down a few thoughts at the end of the day can help release mental noise. Sitting outside and noticing the colour of the sky can bring clarity. Gentle music, soft fabrics, warm showers and quiet moments of gratitude all support a more peaceful inner world.

As the festive season unfolds, caring for your whole body becomes one of the most meaningful gifts you can give yourself. When your muscles feel relaxed, your breath feels deep and your mind feels clear, every moment becomes easier to enjoy. You move through the season with softness, confidence and a renewed connection to yourself.

This summer, let your wellbeing be a full-body experience. A gentle combination of rest, movement, hydration and natural comfort. When you honour the whole body, you create a season that feels more spacious, more joyful and beautifully your own.

SOOTHING EVENING RITUAL

Add a handful of Epsom salts and a few drops of lavender or jasmine to your evening bath. The warm water helps relax the body while the subtle scent encourages a deeper, more restful sleep. It's a quiet way to end the day feeling lighter, softer and fully unwound.

Mint and Cucumber Cooling Water

For those days when everything feels chaotic and you just need to cool down, this simple infusion brings instant refreshment.

Ingredients:

A few slices of cucumber
Two or three mint leaves
Cold water

How to make it:

Combine all ingredients, let it sit for a few minutes, then strain.

Use:

Apply with a cotton pad or splash lightly onto the skin for a cool, calming boost.



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FESTIVE & Fabulous

Simple ideas to make your festive season beautiful

Walk into any shopping centre this year and the magic is already there. Christmas décor has arrived earlier than usual, with trees, lights and ornaments filling shelves long before the summer holidays begin. Many families are choosing to plan ahead so they can spread out their festive spending, avoid the December rush and enjoy a calmer build-up to the season. Online shopping also makes it easier to prepare early and stay organised.

But if you have not had time to plan yet, do not worry for a second. You are not behind. There is still more than enough time to turn your home into a warm and festive space. Christmas does not require a full-house makeover. A few thoughtful touches can create a beautiful atmosphere without stress.

Focus on One Space

When life is busy, less can feel like more. Instead of decorating every room, choose one area where your family naturally gathers. This could be the dining table, the lounge, the entryway or even a cozy reading nook. A wreath on the wall, a handful of candles or a sprig of greenery can make a room feel instantly festive.

This simple approach is perfect for households who want Christmas to feel calm, meaningful and welcoming.

“A few thoughtful touches are all you need to create a magical Christmas.”

The Christmas Table: Where Everyone Comes Together

One of the easiest places to add festive charm is the dining table. It is the heart of Christmas Day, where people gather, talk, laugh and share memories. A beautifully styled table sets the tone for the entire home and does not require much effort.

1

Start with a neutral base. A linen cloth or table runner in cream, stone or natural tones creates a peaceful foundation. These light, soft colours fit perfectly with the warm festive weather and allow the rest of your décor to shine.

2

Add personal touches. Vintage cutlery, old side plates, your favourite jug or even mismatched pieces can bring personality and comfort to the table. Items with history instantly create a feeling of home.

3

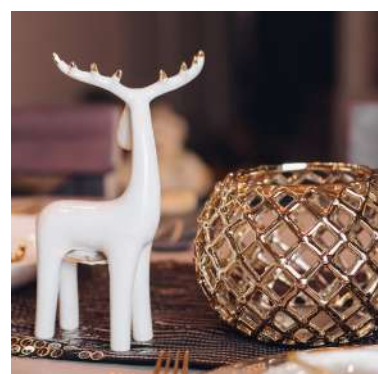
Choose earthy colours. Olive green, soft brown, warm white and light wood textures are the stars this season. They pair beautifully with greenery and give your table a relaxed, elegant feel.

4

Use natural greenery. Instead of heavy floral arrangements, keep things simple. Eucalyptus sprigs, olive branches or a single protea placed in small vases create a fresh and effortless look. Greenery lasts longer, costs less and suits the simplicity of modern festive décor.

5

Finish with gentle lighting. A collection of candles or a strand of fairy lights can transform your table with a soft, welcoming glow. Lighting adds warmth, atmosphere and a sense of celebration that guests feel immediately.



A Season Filled With Connection

Christmas in 2025 is all about simplicity and intention. Early planners choose calmness over chaos. Others start later and rely on thoughtful touches that still make the season sparkle. No matter when you begin, the focus remains the same. Create a space that feels like home and fills the day with joy, comfort and connection.

A single decorated area. A beautiful table. Good food. Laughter. Sunlight. These are the moments that make Christmas unforgettable.



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Foliage Flair

Foliage brings soul, structure and personality to a garden in a way no bloom can replicate. Leaves hold the visual story together by smoothing transitions, adding drama where needed and creating calm where the eye wants to rest. Whether your style leans lush and tropical or clean and architectural, foliage is the foundation that gives every garden its character. When you design with leaves instead of relying only on flowers, you unlock a new layer of creativity and year-round interest.

Foliage has a magic all its own. It shapes beds with colour, texture and form long after blooms have faded. With the right leaf combinations, any space can become a lush, layered masterpiece that feels alive in every season.

Contrast creates energy. Mix broad and dramatic leaves with fine and airy textures to build depth. A bold delicious monster next to flowing grasses adds balance and personality.

- **Colour carries mood.** Silvery leaves brighten darker areas. Burgundy adds instant drama. Lime tones create freshness. Light and dark foliage together give effortless dimension.
- **Repetition builds flow.** Choose one or two hero plants and repeat them to create harmony. This prevents the garden from looking cluttered.
- **Shape defines style.** Upright agaves or aloes bring sculptural presence. Mounded heucheras and cascading ferns soften edges and add movement.
- **Layer with intention.** Place taller foliage at the back, mid-height fillers in the centre and compact groundcovers in the front for beautifully balanced beds.
- **Keep the palette tight.** A small selection of standout foliage plants creates more impact

than too many competing shapes.

- **Texture tells the story.** Velvet, smooth, crinkled and feathery leaves add richness, even when viewed from a distance.

“Design with foliage first and every bed becomes a masterpiece before the first bloom appears.”

FOLIAGE PICKS

Shady Bed Favourites

- Cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)
- Delicious monster (*Monstera deliciosa*)
- Philodendron Xanadu
- Clivias (*Clivia miniata*)
- Rex begonias (*Begonia rex*)
- Coleus hybrids
- Maidenhair or Boston ferns
- Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum*)
- Fatsia japonica
- Asparagus fern (*Asparagus densiflorus*)

Sun-Loving Showstoppers

- Spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*)
- Artemisia Powis Castle
- Lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
- Lavender varieties
- Feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)
- Blue chalk sticks (*Senecio serpens*)
- Heuchera cultivars
- Agave species
- Delosperma ice plants
- Croton varieties (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

A well designed foliage garden invites you to slow down and really see the details. The shimmer of silver leaves, the sway of grasses, the bold confidence of architectural plants and the gentle texture of ferns all work together to create a space

that feels grounded and alive. When you start experimenting with foliage pairings, you discover how effortlessly a garden can transform. With a few thoughtful choices and a little creativity, any corner of your outdoor space can become a leafy sanctuary that looks beautiful in every season.





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Where time slows down
A Journey To Royal Jozini

The moment we turned off the main road and began the drive through the reserve, something shifted. The air grew softer, fresher... the kind that makes you take a deeper breath without even realising it. As the Lebombo Mountains rose up in the distance and Lake Jozini shimmered under the late afternoon sun, we knew we'd arrived somewhere special.

By the time we reached our bush home, a gentle stillness had settled over everything. We stepped onto the wide

veranda and were greeted by the sounds of nature — birds calling, leaves rustling, and somewhere in the distance, the soft snort of a nyala moving through the bush.

“It felt as though time had slowed to the rhythm of the wild”

That first evening, we lit a small fire in the boma and watched the stars emerge one by one. There's something magical about an African night sky — a vast, velvety darkness alive with the sounds of the bush. Conversations flowed easily, laughter came freely, and the worries we'd carried from the city simply melted away. The days that



followed were a gentle blend of peace and adventure. Mornings were spent sipping coffee. Some of us went tiger fishing, chasing the thrill of the catch; others took quiet walks, binoculars in hand, spotting giraffe and kudu along the way. Afternoons invited lazy swims, reading in shady spots, or dozing to the soundtrack of cicadas.

In the evenings, as the sun set over the lake, painting the mountains gold — we gathered around the braai, beneath that endless sky. We celebrated a birthday while we were there, surrounded by close friends, with laughter echoing into the night. But honestly, Royal Jozini doesn't need a special occasion. Being here is reason enough.

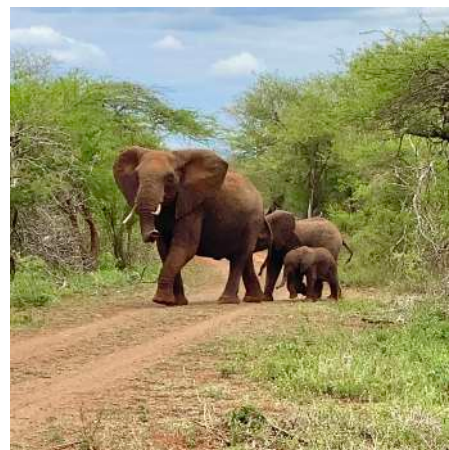
Staying in a private bush home gave us the freedom to truly unwind.

With self-catering lodges tucked discreetly into the landscape, it felt like our own little corner of the wilderness — with all the comforts of home, but none of the rush.

Royal Jozini is 600kms from Pretoria and Johannesburg, yet it feels worlds away. Whether it's a weekend escape, a family holiday, a romantic retreat, or a special celebration, this is a place that soothes the soul and leaves you longing to return.

Definitely worth the trip!

***Royal Jozini –
Where nature
welcomes you home.***



Find Your Peace in the Heart of the Bush

Nestled against the breathtaking Lebombo Mountains and shimmering Lake Jozini, Royal Jozini Private Game Reserve offers a sanctuary where nature's healing powers work their quiet magic.

Wake to birdsong, breathe in pure bush air, and let time stretch endlessly as you relax with family and friends in your own private lodge. Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, or simply time to reconnect, this is a place to celebrate life's special moments.

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BUCKETS OF THANKS

Dear Residents,

As the festive season approaches, we are once again reminded of the incredible kindness and unity that define our community at The Hills. This year, the **Buckets of Thanks** initiative returned, and thanks to your overwhelming generosity, it was an outstanding success.

What started as a simple gesture of appreciation has now become a cherished tradition that brings joy not only to our hardworking security team but also to everyone who takes part.

Your generosity made it possible

This year, an amazing 108 homeowners contributed towards the initiative, raising a remarkable R71 000. With these funds, we were able to put together 48 buckets, each carefully packed with essential items, treats, toiletries, and thoughtful everyday goods to show our gratitude to the security guards who keep our estate safe around the clock.

Thanks to your contributions, we not only filled all **48 buckets** but also had funds left over. This allowed us to extend a gesture of appreciation to the **22 Garden Group workers**, acknowledging the hard work and dedication they bring to maintaining the natural beauty of our estate.

Your kindness reached even further than we imagined.

A community effort to be proud of

The response from residents was extraordinary. The donations came in quickly, the packing sessions were filled with enthusiasm, and once again the spirit of togetherness shone brightly. This initiative truly showcased what it means to live in a community that cares.

To every resident who donated, packed, encouraged, or supported this project in any way, thank you. Your involvement turned a simple idea into something truly meaningful.

“The Buckets of Thanks project reminds us that even the smallest act of generosity can brighten countless hearts.”

Why this project matters

Buckets of Thanks has never been only about the items inside the buckets. It is a powerful expression of gratitude, recognising the people who protect, maintain, and uplift our estate every single day. It is a reminder that kindness, when shared, creates connection.

It is a celebration of the heart and soul of The Hills: its people.

Let's keep the tradition strong

We encourage residents to continue supporting this wonderful initiative in the years to come. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps create something special that shows our appreciation and strengthens our community.

Thank you once again for making this year's Buckets of Thanks such a meaningful success. Your generosity has made a real difference, and the impact will be felt long after the festive season.

Wishing you all a holiday season filled with warmth, gratitude, and joy.

With appreciation,
Buckets of Thanks Team





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IT'S THE SILLY SEASON AGAIN – A VET'S ADVICE REGARDING NOISE PHOBIA IN DOGS AND CATS

BY DR VICKY LOUW (BVSC)

As veterinarians, we see a sharp increase in anxiety-related cases over the festive season — especially in pets with noise phobias. Fireworks, parties, loud music, and gatherings can be terrifying for many dogs and cats, and what feels like “fun” to us may feel like a real threat to them.

What is noise phobia?

Noise phobia is an intense fear response to loud or unpredictable sounds such as fireworks, thunder, or gunshots. This isn't “naughtiness” or attention-seeking — it's a genuine panic reaction caused by how pets perceive sound and vibration.

What it looks like:

For dogs, fear of loud noises (such as fireworks, thunder or sudden bangs) often triggers visible active reactions: barking, pacing, panting, hiding, shaking, trying to escape or even injuring themselves.

For cats, the responses may be more subtle — hiding, freezing, avoiding interaction, or trying to escape into small dark places.

DECEMBER 2025



Why holidays make it worse:

The noises are unpredictable: fireworks or loud celebrations often come without warning, at strange times, from different directions. That unpredictability makes them harder for an animal to cope with.

- The sounds are intense: Loud booms, flashes, smells (smoke) — all can add to the sensory overload.
- The environment changes: More visitors, more activity, less routine. For pets that thrive on stability, this adds to anxiety.
- Potential for danger: Pets may bolt, try to escape, injure themselves, or run away when frightened.





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A FESTIVE EVENT TO REMEMBER

Written by Tobia von Zwiétring
Editor of The Eco e-Magazine

The Hills came alive on Saturday, 29 November, as families poured into the estate for one of the most joyful days of the year. Our Festive Market and Santa's grand arrival brought colour, music, laughter and the true spirit of community.

We began preparations in September, carefully curating a selection of 40 stalls. Each vendor was chosen to add something special to the day, from handcrafted goods to delicious treats. The stall fees allowed us to purchase and rent beautiful decorations that transformed the estate into a magical

festive space. Some days we laughed until our stomachs hurt. Other days we felt overwhelmed. But every bit of effort was worth it because our goal was to create something truly memorable for our residents.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Terrouges Équestre

A massive thank you goes out to **Terrouges Équestre** for their generous trade exchange with K-Studio, our estate magazine. This contribution played a vital role in bringing

the market to life and we are grateful that they have agreed to partner with us again.

Please continue supporting them. Jessie van Eck schools horses of all levels, from backing youngsters to correcting older horses with specific challenges. She also travels to yards across Pretoria for training. Terrouges offers carriage and vintage car hire for events and special occasions, and their carriages are often hired for matric dances, commercials, feature films and photoshoots.

“Community turns ordinary days into unforgettable moments.”

The Dream Team Behind the Magic

Events of this scale only happen through passion, dedication and teamwork. A heartfelt thank you goes

to our organisers and the management team at the office who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

Sydney, Funeka, Maryke, Clarice and Dennis from Omega went above and beyond. A special thank you also goes to **Karnell van Dyk, Kim Steyn, Phillip Fouché, Marietjie Fouché and Veronique Kong**, and lastly, my darling husband whose support carried me through the long days and late nights. This remarkable group made the event the success it was. Every challenge was met with a solution and every obstacle with determination.

Blessed With Sunshine and Smiles

In the days leading up to the market, the rain seemed endless. Some suggested postponing or adjusting the event. But we hoped and prayed for clear skies and **God blessed us with the most beautiful sunny day.**

Residents arrived in waves and the stalls thrived with support. The gift giving was filled with joy. Children ran after Santa and the horses. The horse and carriage rides added a magical touch that made the day feel like a scene from a storybook.

Carrying the Spirit Forward

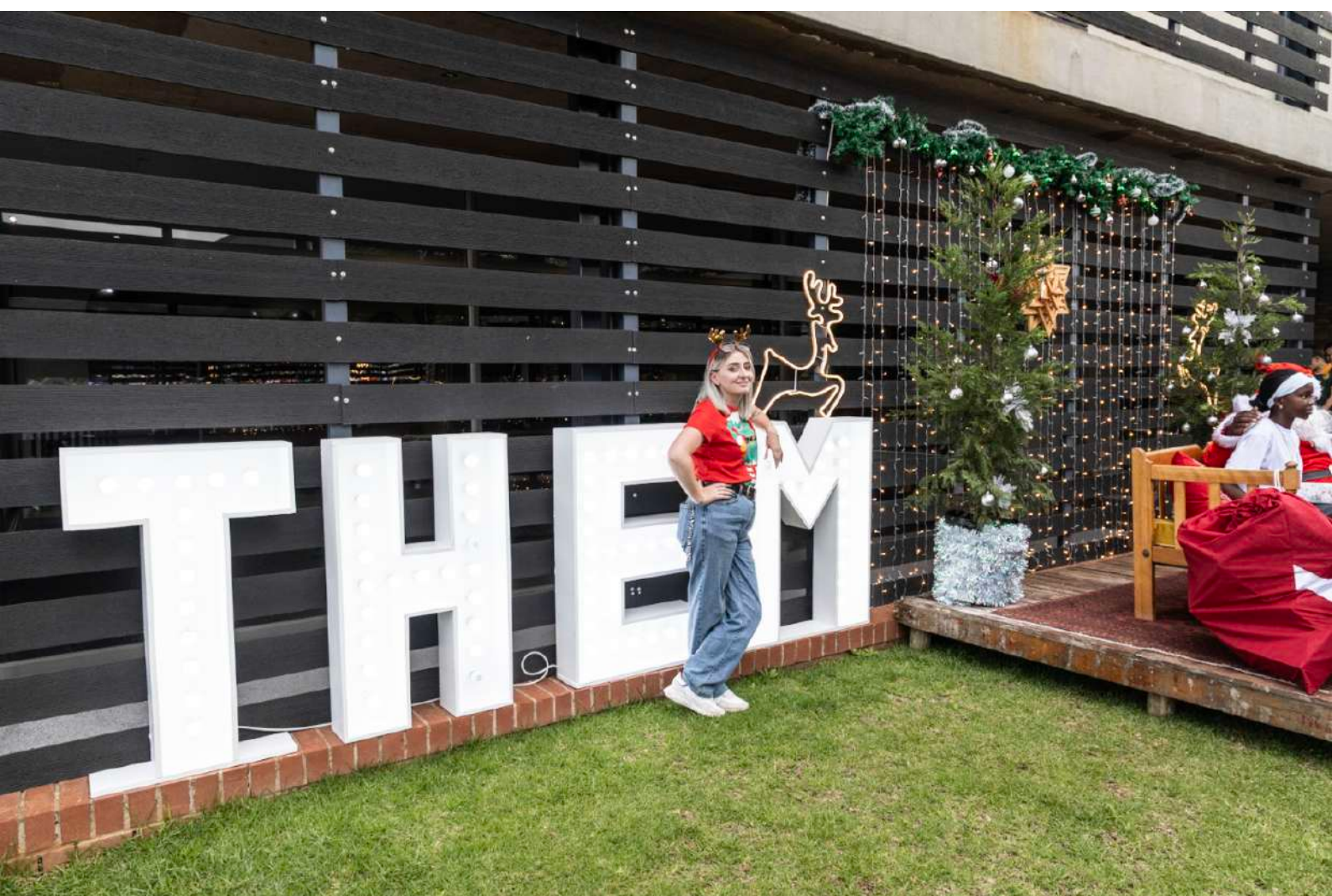
Every moment, every detail and every smile made this day special. The Festive Market reminded us of the importance of togetherness and the community we are fortunate to be part of.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's carry this spirit with us. Let us continue to show kindness, care and mindfulness toward one another. ***Ubuntu remains at the heart of who we are. I am because we are.***

Here's to more memories, more celebrations and more moments where The Hills shines as the warm and welcoming community it is.













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WHERE EQUESTRIAN TRADITION & ELEGANCE CONVERGE

Just outside the vibrant heart of Pretoria East lies a sanctuary that has been captivating horse lovers and outdoor enthusiasts for over three decades. Terrouges Equestre, a family-run estate since 1988, is a harmonious blend of tradition, excellence, and modern experiences. From immersive horse-riding lessons to vintage carriage rides that evoke a bygone era, this exceptional venue offers something truly unique for anyone who appreciates the majesty of horses.

A Place to Connect with Horses and Nature

At its core, Terrouges Equestre is a haven for equestrian enthusiasts of all levels. Here, riding is more than just a skill to master—it's a way to connect deeply with these magnificent creatures and the peaceful countryside they call home. The estate's qualified instructors, trained under the South African National Instructors Program, offer personalized lessons tailored to every rider, from complete beginners to seasoned equestrians.

The riding school boasts a comprehensive selection of ponies and horses suited to all levels, creating an inclusive environment where riders can grow their confidence and skills. With no more than five participants per lesson, instructors ensure a focused and tailored experience that fosters both progress and enjoyment.

State-of-the-Art Facilities for Equestrian Excellence

Every aspect of Terrouges Equestre reflects its commitment to quality. Riders have access to an indoor arena with floodlights, brick stables, and specialized care facilities like a solarium. Regular competitions, shows, and training events foster a thriving equestrian community where riders can challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements.

For those looking to deepen their commitment, Terrouges offers leasing options with a range of high-quality horses and ponies. These opportunities allow riders to explore their potential, whether their goal is competition or personal enrichment.

Beyond Riding: Unforgettable Experiences

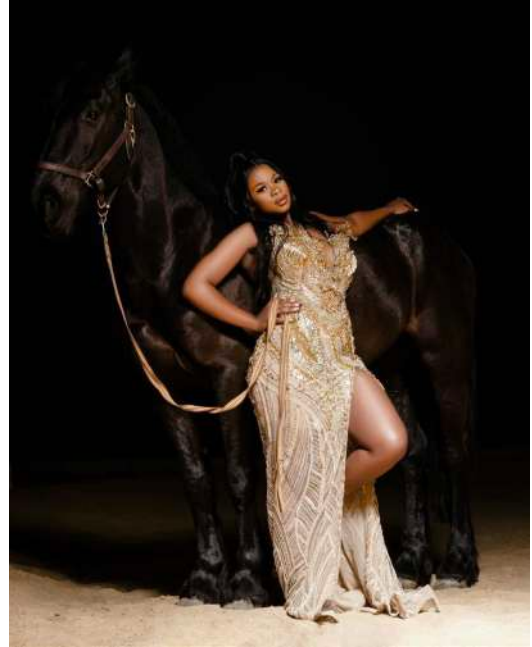
While horse riding is at the heart of Terrouges, the estate offers a host of other unique experiences that have earned its reputation as a destination for extraordinary moments.

Weddings with a Touch of Royalty

There's something timeless about arriving at your wedding in a horse-drawn carriage. At Terrouges, couples can embrace this enchanting tradition, making their grand entrance in one of 25 beautifully restored period carriages. These elegant vehicles, paired with the estate's magnificent horses, bring a sense of romance and sophistication that transforms any wedding into a fairytale.

Matric Dance Memories

Terrouges adds a touch of magic to matric dances, offering students the opportunity to arrive in unparalleled style. With carriages that evoke a sense of royalty, these rides create lasting memories for young adults stepping into one of the most significant nights of their lives.



Picturesque Photoshoots

The rolling hills and serene landscapes of Terrouges provide the perfect backdrop for photoshoots. Whether posing alongside their majestic horses or simply enjoying the natural beauty of the estate, visitors can capture moments of breathtaking elegance.

A Legacy of Tradition and Passion

Terrouges Equestre is more than a riding school or event venue—it's a living legacy. Since 1988, this family-run estate has upheld the values of dedication, quality, and tradition. Its collection of carriages, many sourced from Europe and South Africa, is a testament to its rich heritage. These treasures, along with five classic motor cars preserved as family heirlooms, continue to delight visitors and enhance every event hosted on the property.

Carriage-Driving: A Unique Equestrian Discipline

For those seeking something beyond traditional riding, Terrouges offers carriage-driving lessons. This family-oriented activity welcomes riders of all ages and abilities, including those transitioning from riding to a new way of engaging with horses. Whether competitive or recreational, carriage-driving provides a rewarding and social equestrian experience.

Why Choose Terrouges Equestre?

Terrouges stands out for its personalized approach, where every rider, horse, and visitor is treated with care and respect. Horses are not just animals here—they are members of the Terrouges family, trained with a philosophy of balance, lightness, and calmness. This commitment to excellence has made Terrouges a beloved destination for riders, event planners, and anyone drawn to the world of equestrian tradition.

Plan Your Visit

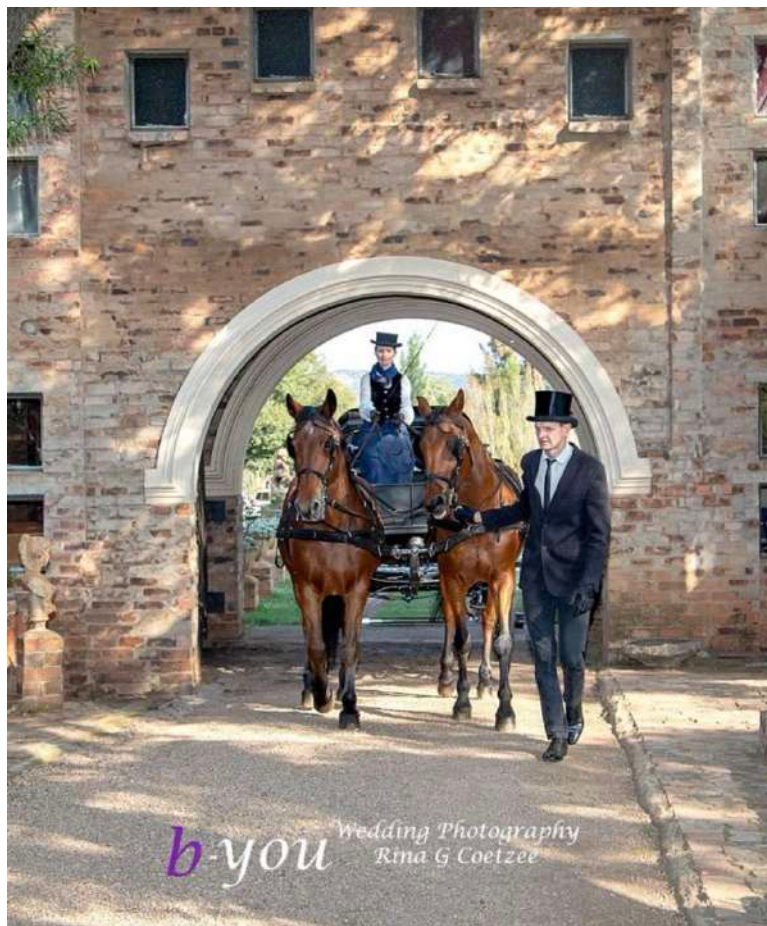
Step into the world of Terrouges Equestre and experience the magic for yourself. Whether you're learning to ride, planning a wedding, or simply seeking an unforgettable day surrounded by natural beauty, this estate offers an unparalleled escape into elegance and tradition.

For more information visit:

www.terrouges.com,

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Every day, beauty whispers to us—birdsong in the dawn, gentle creatures on velvet hooves, sunrise blushing, and sunset sighing. Let's share these moments together.



From the Gym Manager



Closing the Year Strong & Stepping Into a New Chapter

As the festive season settles over The Hills, there is a gentle pause in the air. It is a moment to look back, breathe deeply, and take stock of a year that has truly shaped our fitness community. It has been a year marked by commitment, energy and growth, and as we stand at the threshold of a well-deserved break, one thing is clear: this community continues to impress, inspire and uplift.

A Final Event That Captured Our Spirit

November's closing event felt like a celebration of everything we have built together. Residents filled the space with laughter, determination and an unmistakable sense of unity. Trainers and participants gave their all, and many helping hands worked quietly behind the scenes to ensure the morning flowed seamlessly. It was not just an event, it was a reminder of how powerful collective motivation can be. It reflected the heartbeat of The

Hills fitness culture: supportive, spirited and always striving for better.

A Fresh Look for a Fresh Era

Excitement is building around the revitalised clubhouse, and for good reason. The upcoming transformation is much more than a cosmetic upgrade. It marks the start of a new atmosphere that is modern, energising and intentionally designed to uplift you the moment you step inside. Every detail aims to support our evolving vision. A space that not only looks exceptional but helps you feel exceptional.

Looking Ahead to 2026

While many of us use this season to slow down and reconnect with family, plans for the year ahead are already taking shape. Expect enhanced programs, a refreshed class lineup, inspiring wellness initiatives and more engaging events that bring our community together.

The mission remains simple: creating an environment where every resident, no matter their fitness level, feels motivated, supported and excited to keep going.

A Thank You as We Wrap Up the Year

As 2025 draws to a close, gratitude sits at the centre of this reflection. Thank you for showing up, for trusting the process and for choosing your wellbeing again and again. Your consistency and spirit are what make this community thrive.

May your festive season be filled with joy, rest and meaningful moments with the people who matter most. Recharge, celebrate your personal wins and step into the new year knowing that even more good things are on the horizon.

**Wishing you and your family
a joyful, safe and refreshing
festive season.**

Siyanda Manga
Gym Manager



CLASSIFIEDS

If you would like to advertise in the Echo's Classifieds section, please email Tobia at tobia@k-studio.co.za by the 15th of every month. The Classifieds section is exclusively available to The Hills residents, allowing you to advertise at no cost. Please include your stand number and contact details for references.

Classified advertisements are intended to connect residents with trusted services and are not typical sales promotion adverts. They serve as a platform to bring together community members who can benefit from each other's services.

As a resident, you are welcome to recommend good and reliable service providers for inclusion in the Classifieds. Please inform us if a service provider has changed their contact number or is no longer available, so we can update or remove them from the list accordingly.

Important Notice: The publishers and the HOA are not responsible for the quality of services provided by any suppliers listed. Satisfaction with service delivery is not guaranteed, and any concerns should be addressed directly with the service provider.

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- GP practice with a Clinic in Tierpoort. Tierpoort Medical. Dr David Hyams Tel 060 324 2048

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- Malesa (Painter) 073 559 9513
- Mike (Tiler) 063 413 6525 / 069 108 8422
- Patrick (Tiling) 078 858 1160
- Thys Oelofse (Painting) 083 321 2939

- Watertite Waterproofing (Johan) (Waterproofing Services) 083 254 1400
- Proofreading, editing, copyediting, document formatting, content creation, website designing (for small to medium-sized businesses) and social media account management services. Call Susan Nganjo in The Hills at 0828826866
- EXLNT School Transport and also available for hire. Operate within Pretoria East. Contact 066 227 7574 / 072 542 4399

PET CARE

- **Paws & Claws Pet Sitting**
Offering reliable and caring pet-sitting services right here in the Estate. Micha comes to your home to make sure your pets are looked after, loved, and comfortable while you're away.
Contact Micha on 082 962 8255
- **Housesit Bruh:** House sitting, Overnight Pet Sitting, Daily feeds and hanging out, Animal walking. 081 556 5465, email: housesitbruh@gmail.com
- The Country Pet Hotel in Pretoria East offers boutique pet boarding with 24-hour care; contact 082 056 0561 or 082 920 4990.

PLUMBERS:

- AA Plumbers (Greg) 076 923 2277
- Casper Coetzee 071 944 5689 / 078 695 4167
- Chris Skhossy 072 060 5653
- Eugene 078 110 0912
- Heino 073 294 8577

- Mishack Eugene (Plumber & Construction) 082 954 7231
- MRL Plumbing 073 941 2480
- Ruan 072 643 3228 / 082 616 6068
- Rudolf (Plumber) 083 218 4466
- Source Leak Detection (Sydney) 076 229 6320

POOLS

- David Moraites (Pools) 072 299 9335
- Pacific Pools (Mike) (Pools & Pumps) 083 293 1349
- Weekly **pool cleaning** at a monthly cost of R600 - ALL chemicals included. Contact 083 278 8720.

YUMMY CREATIONS & COOL TREATS

- I am selling raw honey at R80 a bottle or Honey and Rusks at R140 Contact Gladiola 0721915097 Free delivery for the hills residents and R80 courier anywhere else in Gauteng.
- Artisan Air-roasted coffee beans/ground by Airabica Roasters! Free delivery in The Hills. Priced from R110-R330. Contact Duncan 082 440 9174 or orders@airabica.co.za
- Divine Decadent Cakes - 2024 Indulge in our delicious baked goods, crafted to perfection! Our offerings include: Scones, Biscuits, Cupcakes, Cakes. To order, WhatsApp: 0786238029. Treat yourself to our delightful creations, perfect for any occasion!



2025 IN REVIEW

Reflecting on a year of progress and a look at what is coming in 2026

From the Environmental Team

As 2025 draws to a close, it is clear that this has been a transformative year for our estate. From upgrades to our recreational spaces to smart environmental planning, every project has been guided by a commitment to enhance our living environment, protect our natural assets and support the wellbeing of our residents and wildlife.

Wildlife Management Takes a Leap Forward

One of the standout achievements this year has been the design and preparation for a new passive capture boma. This purpose-built facility will play a vital role in reducing stress and the risk of injury when animals need to be relocated or medically managed. With numerous new births over the past three years, including several springbok and zebra babies already spotted this season, responsible population control is essential.

A detailed explanation of the process with photos and 3D visuals will be featured in the next edition of the magazine. Once the boma is complete, the first phase of relocating excess animals will begin.

“Progress is not measured by how much we change, but by how well we care for what we already have.”

A Fresh Take on Family Spaces

An exciting improvement for families is the relocation of the existing restaurant play area to the main playpark in Extension 4. This upgrade will be complemented with enhanced landscaping and the planting of new trees. The result will be a larger, greener and more engaging play environment where children can enjoy safe outdoor fun.

Sport and Wellness Areas Expand

The estate's recreational offering continues to grow with construction of the new sports facility scheduled for this winter. Positioned next to the tennis courts, the development will include new walkways and landscaping, creating an integrated and accessible space that supports active living.

What is Coming in 2026 (Subject to budget approval)

Restoring Our Greenbelts

1 Soil erosion control will be a major focus next year, particularly in the greenbelt areas and reserves where natural flow and vegetation need protection.

Extending the Walkway Network

2 The concrete walkway from the dam overflow to Extension 7 will be extended to improve accessibility and create a longer, uninterrupted route for daily walkers and joggers.

Linking the Reserve to Extension 18

3 A new concrete path will connect the reserve's existing walkways to Extension 18. To improve convenience, an additional drinking fountain will be installed along this route.

New Fishing Jetties

4 Plans include installing one or two new jetties around the dam to offer safer and more convenient fishing points for residents who enjoy time at the water's edge.

Improving Dam Water Quality

5 A water aerator will be installed to increase oxygen circulation in the dam. This will support a healthier aquatic system and improve overall water quality.

Better Lighting at the Clubhouse

6 Upgraded lighting is planned for the clubhouse parking area and surrounding landscaped spaces. The goal is to improve evening visibility, enhance security and create a welcoming atmosphere for after-hours activities.

Improving Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

7 Starting in January, work will begin on a new pedestrian walkway stretching from the Garsfontein traffic intersection to the Garsfontein Gate. This addition will provide a safe and comfortable route for residents who walk to and from the estate. Raised pedestrian crossings will also be installed to slow down traffic and improve visibility, ensuring a safer experience for everyone using these routes.

Looking Ahead

2025 brought real progress, and 2026 holds even more to look forward to. Thank you for your support.

Warm festive wishes and a wonderful new year to all.

the environmental team



IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Medical Assistance:

- **Primary Contact:** Immediately dial 082 911 for Netcare Pretoria East. This will connect you to emergency medical services for prompt assistance.
- **Secondary Contact:** After requesting medical help, it is crucial to contact the Gate Commander to facilitate access to your property.

Gate Access Coordination:

- Call the Gate Commander at the Garsfontein gate on 082 826 3761.
- **Information Sharing:** When you speak with the Gate Commander, be sure to provide your stand number. Security personnel will wait for the ambulance or police and escort them directly to your stand number. This step is essential to ensure that the emergency responders can locate your home quickly and avoid any delays at the gate.

Police Services:

- **Emergency Number:** Dial 10111 for immediate police assistance.
- **Local Police Stations:** Boschkop SAPS:
T: 012 802 4210 C: 071 675 7350 **Standby Officer:** 071 765 7341

By following these steps, you help ensure that emergency responders can reach you as swiftly as possible, minimizing any potential delays that could arise at the estate entrance.

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