

JCP LAUNCHES WITH A BANG – PROMOTING AWARENESS AND JOB CREATION

March-April 2011

2 February 2011 marked the launch of Johannesburg City Parks (JCP) training academy at the Johannesburg Botanic Gardens' Environmental Education Centre, in Emmarentia. The JCP Academy will focus on horticultural skills development and business practices Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs).

More than one hundred and four unemployed youth, identified from the City of Johannesburg's 'Job Pathways' database for the unemployed, have been selected to take part in the three years of learning at City Parks' new training academy. The Academy is part of JCP's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to alleviate poverty through the creation of sustainable jobs.

The project is aimed at creating decent, permanent employment in a sector that is labour intensive, and The JCP Academy is aimed at addressing the skills gap left by natural attrition at City Parks by providing young people with relevant skills to work as horticultural operators in the Organisation. The launch was also attended by the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Environment, Ms Matshidiso Mfikoe. She said she was hopeful that "the seed being sown...will reap huge rewards for a bright future for our youth in Joburg. You are the chosen few and you have earned the right to be here today. However, with this right comes a responsibility to ensure that you are loyal, committed and hard-working to make the project a success."

The learners will receive a monthly stipend amount from the savings generated from the current salary bill while learning, an initiative by the National Government, in a bid to create more sustainable jobs. We are hopeful that this is the beginning of a programme that will be rolled out on a larger scale with support from business.



Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) Matshidiso Mfikoe and acting City Parks MD Geoffrey Cooke planted trees together with learners to celebrate the official launch the JCP Academy



JoziBill

Contents

We're making it easier for you to meet with us
Find your local Customer Service Centre

A few reminders when paying your municipal account
New account details, levies and advice

Have your say
It's time to comment on the rates policy

Thinking of buying or selling property?
Here's what the City of Joburg needs from you

JCP launches with a bang –
Promoting awareness and job creation

We're making it easier for you to meet with us.

We're happy to announce that till the end of June 2011, the following Customer Service Centers will be open on Saturdays and Sundays between 8am and 12pm :

Midrand Civic Centre 300 - 15th Road, Midrand	Jabulani Civic Centre 1 Koma Street, Jabulani
Sandton Civic Centre 24 Fredman Drive, Sandton	Eureka House C/o Marlborough Street & Rosettenville Road, Wemmerpan
Randburg Rates Hall C/o Braam Fischer Drive & Jan Smuts Avenue, Ferndale	Lenasia Civic Centre C/o Rose Avenue & Eland Street, Lenasia Ext 2
Roodepoort City Hall Corner of Berlandina and Dieperink Streets, Roodepoort	Ennerdale Ext 9 C/o Katz Road & Smit Street, Ennerdale
Thuso House 61 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein	Eldorado Customer Service Centre 4046 Link Crescent Avenue, Ext 5, Eldorado Park

Please note: The Customer Service Centers will not be open on 22, 23, 24, 25 and 27 April 2011 for the Easter Holidays and Freedom Day. We will also be closed on 1 and 2 May 2011 for the Workers Day Public holiday.

A few reminders when paying your municipal account

REMINDER: New banking details for PIKITUP, Johannesburg Water and City Power.

Most customers now receive a consolidated bill from the City of Johannesburg with all individual service charges (water, electricity, refuse and sewer) specified on the bill. However, we've noticed that customers are still paying into the incorrect bank account. Our banking details are:

BANK: ABSA
BRANCH CODE: 632005
BENEFICIARY: City of Johannesburg
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 4054398463
REFERENCE NUMBER: Your nine (9) digit account number (as per your statement)

Please take note that payments into any of the old City Power, Johannesburg Water or Pikitup accounts cannot be receipted on City's new billing system and your payment will not be reflected. If you would like to confirm these details, please call us on 011 375 5555.

REMINDER: We levy an admin fee on debit and credit card payments over R5000.

Do you pay your municipal account by debit or credit card at an Easypay pay point, such as Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite or Checkers? Please keep in mind that if you pay more than R5, 000 (R5, 001 and more), for more than one billing period, you will be required to pay an administration fee of 2, 5%. A billing period is the time between two billing dates.

REMINDER: Don't let your municipal account debt pile up.

If you do, you will be liable for all fees incurred for the collection of outstanding amounts on your defaulted account. So make sure your account is paid and up-to-date. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying your municipal account debt, visit any Customer Service Centre city-wide to make an arrangement.

HAVE YOUR SAY

It's time to comment on the Rates Policy. The City of Johannesburg is in the process of drafting the 2011/2012 amendments to the Rates Policy. If you would like to have your say, please join us at any of the following public meetings:

If you have missed the meeting, don't worry. You can still have your say. A copy of the Draft Rates Policy and amendments can be downloaded on the City's website on the following URL: http://www.joburgarchive.co.za/2011/pdfs/rates/draft_rates_policy201112.pdf

You can also send us your written comments before 2 May 2011. E-mail: RatesComment@joburg.org.za. Fax: 011 727 0189. Drop off: For attention - Rates & Taxes Department, Jorissen Place, 66 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein

VENUE	DATE	TIME
The Health Department Training Centre, Alphen Square North, Sixteenth Rd, Midrand	11 April 2011	18:00-20:00
Roodepoort Civic Centre, Corner of Berlandina and Dieperink Streets, Roodepoort	12 April 2011	18:00-20:00
Eureka House, Wemmer Pan, 92 Marlborough Road, Cnr Rosettenville, Road, Springfield (Rosettenville)	13 April 2011	18:00-20:00
Ennerdale Civic Centre, Cnr. Katz and Smith Street, Ext 9	14 April 2011	19:00-21:00
Jabulani Civic Centre, 1 Koma Road, Jabulani, Soweto	16 April 2011	09:00-11:00
Marks park, Pavillion Hall, Judith Road, Emmarentia	18 April 2011	18:00-20:00
Hillbrow, Ark Royal Boardroom, Cnr Banket and Pietersen (Joubert Park)	19 April 2011	18:00-20:00
Ernest Ullman Park Recreation Centre, Minto Road, Morningside Manor	20 April 2011	18:00-20:00

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY?

What the City of Joburg needs from you:

For many customers buying or selling is one of the biggest financial transactions they will ever be involved in. While for some this might be an exciting time, for others the task is daunting as it's filled with complex processes that, if not properly followed, could lead to serious delays. In order for any pending purchase or sale to proceed smoothly it is critical to ensure that customers understand these processes. Over the next few months JoziBill will explain the Municipal aspect of your property transaction.

When you are selling your property there are three important steps to follow:

1. Apply for a Clearance Certificate
2. Finalise your account
3. Apply for a refund

In this issue JoziBill will guide customers on how to apply for a Clearance Certificate. In the property transaction process, the seller is responsible for the payment of municipal rates on the property; inclusive of electricity, water, sewer and solid waste removal (refuse) accounts. Even if a tenant might have leased the property from a seller, outstanding municipal revenue service fees still remain the seller's responsibility. Transfer of ownership cannot be done unless all these accounts have been settled as per legal requirements.

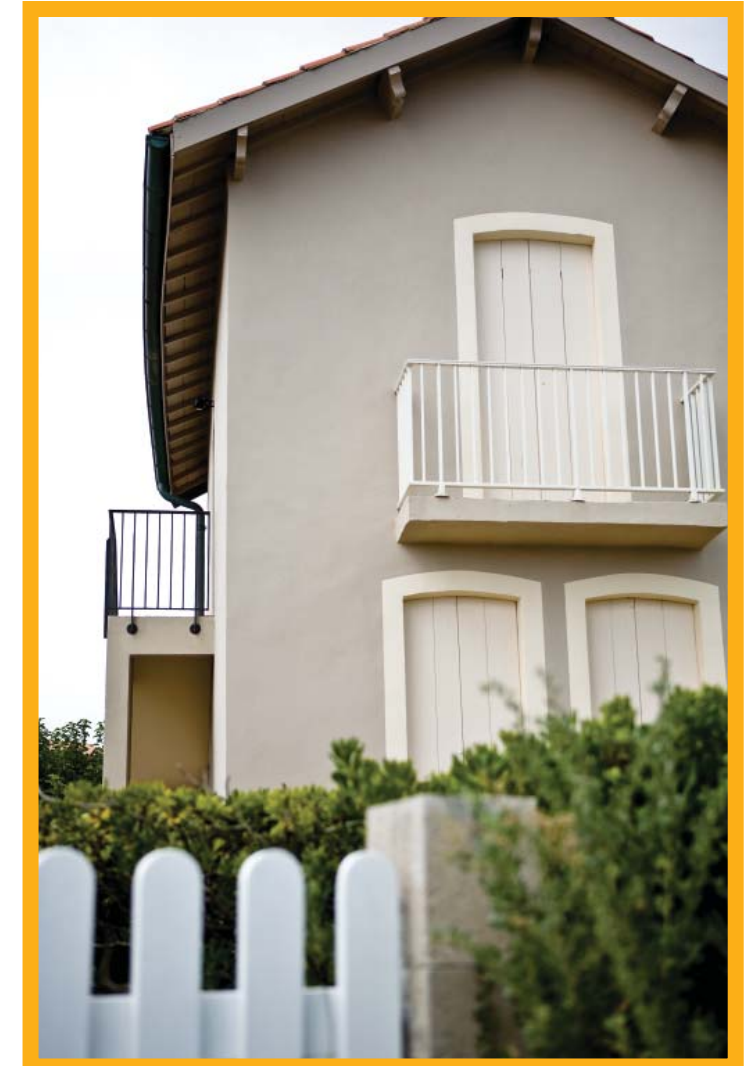
How to apply for a Clearance Certificate:

Step one: Fill out the Clearance Form

The appointed conveyancing attorney applies for a Clearance Certificate from the local municipality's Clearance Department. The Clearance Department will then check that the application form has been completed correctly before it is 'date stamped'. A 'date stamped' copy is given to the transfer attorneys. To avoid any delays, it is very important that all the information supplied corresponds with the Council's records.

What causes delays on my application for a Clearance Certificate?

- If not all the fields (spaces) on the application form are completed.
- Details such as the owner's full name and surname, identification number and the 'erf/stand' number must correspond with the Council's records.
- If your information does not correspond with the Council's records there will be a delay.
- Should there be no valuation on the property, a query will have to be lodged with the Council's Valuations and Rates and Taxes departments.
- All outstanding queries need to be resolved first. Refuse (removal of solid waste), water and electricity charges and queries have to be lodged with Pikitup and the Valuation and Assessment Rates Department. Similarly, if there were no sewer/water and/or electricity charges, then Johannesburg Water and/or City Power must be contacted.



- Remember to get a reference number every time you lodge a query.

Step two: Get the Clearance Amounts

Once the Clearance Department has verified all the applicable information, the attorneys are informed of the clearance figures. If all the information is correct and there are no problems or queries, the clearance figures can be given to the attorneys within five working days of application.

Step three: Pay the Clearance Amounts

The attorneys then arrange payment, which can only be done in cash or with an attorney trust cheque. A clearance certificate is issued within 24 hours of payment. The clearance certificate is valid for 60 days. However, should there be any reason why the transfer of the property is delayed for a period of longer than 60 days, the attorneys have to re-apply for a clearance certificate.

In the next issue of JoziBill we will deal with how to finalise your account and apply for a refund.