



To find out more about the PRA's work visit our website at www.parkview.org.za. On Facebook, join **I Love Parkview** and follow our page **Parkview, Johannesburg** and on Instagram follow the **parkview_residents_association**.

This Heritage Month, we celebrate the places, stories and community that make our neighbourhood exceptional. In this special edition, we bring you everything you need to know about the Parkview Heritage Festival, along with a look at the rich history and heritage of Parkview and Greenside East.

One street. Four festivals. Make a day of it!

PARKVIEW HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Books, bites, bubbles and buzz!



ParkFood

ParkFood: Come hungry!

One of the great things about holding a festival on Tyrone Avenue? The food is already here.

Our local restaurants join the festivities throughout the day, with Croft&Co, MishMash Mediterranean, Palace of Punjab, Trabella Pizzeria, Blind Tiger Café, Asian Twist and Franco's Pizzeria & Trattoria ready to feed hungry festival-goers.

Start with breakfast before your first ParkWords session, meet friends for lunch, grab an afternoon bite or settle in for an early dinner as the festival winds down.



ParkKids

ParkKids: A festival especially for our younger visitors

The grown-ups certainly aren't having all the fun with plenty to keep younger festival-goers entertained while their parents enjoy everything else Tyrone Avenue has to offer.

ParkKids packs in storytelling, readings, drama, games, theatre, dancing and play, with something for everyone from toddlers to teenagers. Little ones can enjoy soft play and carnival games throughout the day, while the library hosts stories, readings, interactive drama and storytelling workshops and shadow-puppet theatre. There's even a disco and dance session, stilt walking, balloon folding, face painting and a magic show.

Saturday, 19 September, Tyrone Avenue

It's almost festival time! Tyrone Avenue once again comes alive for a full day of books and big conversations, fabulous food, wonderful wines, children's activities and entertainment.

ParkKids Programme

Area 1: Library parking	
ALL DAY	CHARACTER ACTIVATIONS PIP AND POSY: Facilitated by Jonathan Ball Publishers
Area 2: Library playground	
ALL DAY	SOFT PLAY AND CARNIVAL GAMES: Facilitated by the Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg
Area 3: Library inside (maximum capacity: 120)	
09:15 – 09:45	STORYTELLING: <i>Fudukazi's Magic</i> and <i>Thank You, Jackson</i> with Merle Grace as Blackbird the Storyteller (all ages)
09:45 – 10:15	READING: <i>The Friendly Tokoloshe</i> with William Gumede (1-10 years)
10:30 – 11:00	READING: <i>Lenny and the Scrub</i> with Amy Hedenrich (3-6 years)
11:00 – 11:20	READING: <i>Arabella, the Moon and the Magic Mongongo Nut</i> with Hamilton Wende (8-12 years)
11:30 – 12:00	DRAMA WORKSHOP: Facilitated by POPart (5-8 years)
12:15 – 12:45	READING: <i>Amandla the Dreamer</i> with Kuhle-Kwethu Dlamini, followed by a Q&A and giveaway (1-10 years)
13:00 – 13:30	DRAMA AND STORYTELLING WORKSHOP: Facilitated by POPart (9-13 years)
13:40 – 13:50	STORYTELLING: <i>Fly, Eagle, Fly!</i> with Merle Grace as Blackbird the Storyteller (all ages)
14:00 – 14:20	POP-UP THEATRE: <i>Thrice Upon a Time</i> shadow puppetry by the Cosmos Collective (1-10 years)
14:30 – 15:15	DISCO AND DANCE-OFF: Facilitated by Party Squad (teens/all ages)

ParkWords Programme 2026



	Croft & Co	The Village Centre	Blind Tiger Café	MishMash Mediterranean	Friedrich Naumann Foundation
09.30 – 10.30	Money, money, money But is it always sunny in a rich man's world? Ace investigators and authors Gus Silber (co-author of <i>The Three Commas Club: How Billionaires Think, Act and Shape Our World</i>) and Rob Rose discuss the lives, luxuries, lies and legacies of the super-rich. Hear about the glitter and the grime that silly money leaves in its wake.	Publishing a book is easy. Selling a book is hard What makes a best-seller in South Africa, and how do publishers choose what to publish? Terry Morris (Pan Macmillan) and Eugene Ashton (Jonathan Ball Publishers) talk to Laetitia Cassells , Director of the Wits Publishing Master's Degree, about determining what readers want today and how AI could shake up the book business. Veteran book journalist Michele Magwood leads the discussion.		Marlene Dietrich's Joburg secret In 1965 the enigmatic screen icon was a smash hit for two weeks of theatre magic in this city. But why did such a virulent opponent of Nazism play in apartheid South Africa? Hamilton Wende and Fiona Ramsay explore this and the painful secret Dietrich was hiding from her local audiences.	State inaction vs civic action From WhatsApp groups to strengthened residents' associations and physical protest action, David Lewis probes the limits and possibilities of civil society with Ferial Adam , Ferial Haffajee , Alex van den Heever and Phlanie Jooste .
11.30 – 12.30	Joburg – where to from here? What is our city becoming? What was it? What has it never been? How do writers and poets think about its forms and contents, both actual and aesthetic? Where are we now? Sarah Nuttall discusses this with Ivan Vladislavic and Simon van Schalkwyk .	Forgotten Parkview Listen in while local stalwarts Helene Bramwell , Franco Forleo , Russell Wallace and Dave Gurney swap yarns about our storied neighbourhood with Peter Delmar .	The making of a world-class garden In the KZN Midlands lies Brahman Hills , an astounding garden created by landscaper (and Parkview resident) Tim Steyn . His brief was to turn featureless grassland into a spectacular estate, one that quickly won awards from the Royal Horticultural Society. Author Michele Magwood talks us through Tim's philosophy and vision.	Writing the family Deborah Posel , Dominique Botha and Terry Kurgan discuss memoir, autofiction and the unruly family archive: how inherited stories are shaped by migration, history, silence, love and shame – and what happens when writers turn intimate lives into public narratives.	South Africa: What happens after 4 November? Giulietta Talevi quizzes Mondli Makhanya , Rob Rose , Peter Bruce , Sithembile Mbete and William Gumede on why they believe the upcoming municipal elections could be among the most consequential in our democratic history.
12.45–13.45	LUNCH				
	Croft & Co	The Village Centre	Blind Tiger Café	MishMash Mediterranean	Friedrich Naumann Foundation
14.00–16.00		Jane Austen, improvised POPart and Causing a Scene present a world-first, 40-minute long-form improv production about everyone's favourite writer of romantic classics. Jess Taylor , Ncumisa Ndimeni , Hayleigh Evans , Tshepi Khunou , Eduardo Cachucho , Chrisophocus Seboka and Martin Grendele star in an epic tale made up – and performed – on the spot with help from the audience.	ParkWords Lit Quiz Teams of four to eight battle it out for prizes worth thousands as well as bragging rights. And a whole lot of fun.	Parkview: A walk through time and trees Join Lucille Davie on a two-hour, 3.5 km walk to learn more about Parkview's trees and historic spots. Visit "Parkview Castle", learn about the Irish street names and hear about a huge forest that once surrounded Zoo Lake.	

PARKVIEW
HERITAGE
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 Books, bites, bubbles and buzz!

The Parkview Residents' Association acknowledges and appreciates the tremendous efforts of the 2026 programme committee: **Michelle Adler**, **Michelle Dancer**, **Kate Johns**, **Terry Kurgan**, **Michele Magwood**, **Kate Rogan**, **Lisa Seftel**, **Terry Shakinovsky** and **Hamilton Wende**.

ParkWords: Big ideas, fascinating stories and plenty of book banter

ParkWords is back with an outstanding line-up of writers, journalists, academics and commentators, while Exclusive Books will have a full-on bookstore on site, selling our speakers' works, children's books, all of the current bestsellers and more.

We dive into the world of the super-rich and explore what makes a South African bestseller – and what AI could mean for the book business. There's plenty of Joburg in the mix too: Where is our extraordinary city heading, and what stories does our own neighbourhood hold? We also revisit Marlene Dietrich's fascinating 1965 Johannesburg visit. Add conversations about state inaction and civic action, writing the family, a world-class South African garden and what happens after the 4 November municipal elections, and there's plenty to get people talking.

In the afternoon, ParkWords changes gear. Watch a completely improvised Jane Austen production created on the spot with help from the audience, put your literary knowledge to the test at the ParkWords Lit Quiz, or take a 3.5 km heritage walk through Parkview and discover the stories behind our trees, streets and landmarks.

Blood Drive: Come for the festival, bleed for a good cause

The South African National Blood Service will be on Tyrone Avenue, so festival-goers can roll up their sleeves and donate while they're there.



ParkWine: Swirl, sniff and sip

ParkWine returns with wines from some of South Africa's finest estates, right in the heart of Parkview.

This year's line-up includes Gabriëlskloof, Paul René, Catherine Marshall Wines, Bouchard Finlayson, Iona, Bruce Jack Wines, Axe Hill Winery, Bosman Family Vineyards and Babylonstoren – with more to come.

Wander between tastings, linger over a cheese platter and enjoy the leisurely side of the festival before heading back to the books, food and entertainment on Tyrone Avenue. Only 400 ParkWine tickets are available at R250 each, so don't leave this one too late!

TICKETS

Come and celebrate Parkview with us on Saturday, 19 September!

General festival tickets:
R100 adults | R50 children

ParkWine: R250
(including a complimentary glass)

Tickets: parkview.org.za/product-category/tickets/

Celebrating the heritage on our doorstep

This Heritage Month, take a fresh look at the history, homes and streets of Parkview and Greenside East.

From gold prospect to leafy suburb

Did you know Parkview exists partly because there was no gold here?

Parkview was proclaimed in 1906 and developed residentially from 1907 after the Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company discovered there was no gold in the area. Unlike Johannesburg's typical grid-pattern suburbs, Parkview was laid out along the natural contours of the land. Its name came from its view over Hermann Eckstein Park – today's Zoo Lake – which had famously been given to the people of Johannesburg in 1903.

And those Irish street names? We can thank Major John W O'Hara, who built the "Parkview Castle" in Kilkenny Road in 1907 and later became mayor of Johannesburg.

A village in the city

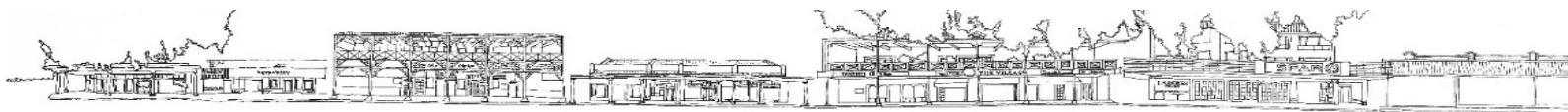
More than a century later, Parkview remains remarkably close to its original plan.

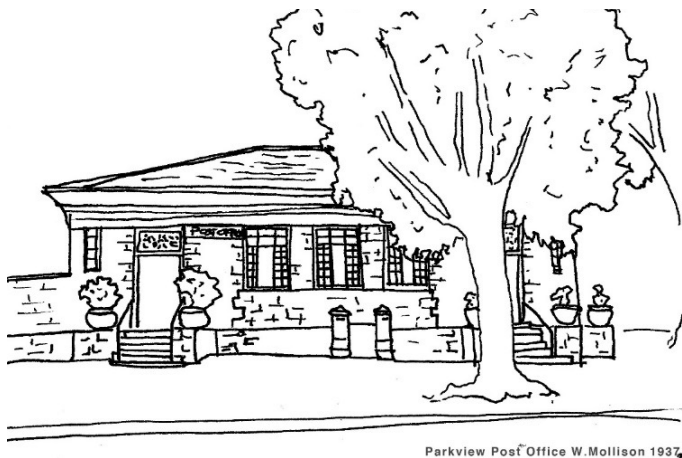
Designed for families, it was equipped with schools, places of worship, shops, a police station, post office and library within a compact 1.7km² village. Tyrone Avenue remains one of Johannesburg's few surviving neighbourhood high streets as a result of its excellent balance of mixed-use services and amenities, while its proximity to Zoo Lake and the golf course, added in 1929, ensures residents enjoy exceptional quality of life.

Parkview's character also lies in its homes and streetscapes: small-scale houses, characterised by fine workmanship and architecture, set back from the road with low walls, established gardens, fine brick and stonework and long, tree-lined streets.

Parkview is believed to have been one of Johannesburg's first jacaranda-lined suburbs, and from at least the 1920s, a tram travelled from Jan Smuts Avenue along Lower Park Drive past Ennis Road towards Rosebank.

Today our suburb boasts several blue plaques, work by notable architects and a slew of famous residents.





Parkview Post Office W. Mollison 1937

Renovating a house that is protected by the Heritage Act

Most Parkview properties are more than 60 years old and are therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

That doesn't mean you can't modernise your home. However, all alterations, additions or demolition require a heritage permit from the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency - Gauteng (PHRA-G) before building plans are submitted to the Council for approval.

The Parkview Residents' Association (PRA) comments on these applications under the umbrella of the Heritage Plans Committee (HPC) Central, which includes members from Westcliff, Parktown, Forest Town, Parkwood, Saxonwold, Dunkeld West and the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation. The HPC's volunteer architects and residents with heritage expertise are guided by the NHRA and the principles of the Burra Charter.

Old meets new

The HPC supports homeowners in finding a balance between modernising older homes for contemporary living and preserving what gives them heritage value.

New additions should be sympathetic to the original building without simply copying it. Navigating this balancing act is greatly eased by the appointment of a professional architect with heritage experience. The HPC has found that when such a professional is involved, a more successful outcome is achieved, with the heritage aspects of the property working together with its enhanced amenities to buoy the overall property value, rather than being felt as a burden. The committee welcomes early 'concept-stage' discussions with architects who seek advice on a chosen design direction.

Our streetscape is heritage too

Parkview's heritage doesn't end at the front door. Our walkable, tree-lined streets, established gardens and glimpses of historic homes all contribute to the character of the neighbourhood.

The HPC therefore encourages homeowners to retain a visual connection between their homes and the street where possible. Even a visually permeable section in a wall or gate can help preserve that connection – with the added security benefit of allowing greater visibility between the property and street.

Planning to build or renovate? Read this first

Heritage approval is only one part of the picture. Building work must also comply with municipal requirements, governed by the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act No. 103 of 1977.

Any work that adds to or changes the structure of an existing building requires approval before construction starts. This can include seemingly minor projects such as boundary walls and swimming pools.

Building without approved plans can result in a building inspector ordering work to stop, fines being imposed and, in serious cases, a court order requiring an illegal structure to be demolished at the homeowner's cost.

Neighbour signatures may no longer be required when submitting building plans, but the PRA strongly encourages residents to discuss planned building projects with their immediate neighbours. It's a simple courtesy – and can prevent a great deal of conflict once the builders arrive.

There's another good reason to get it right from the start: approved building plans reflecting all existing structures are required when a purchaser applies for a bond. Trying to legalise unapproved alterations during a property sale can be costly and stressful.



Weber House J.D. McCallum 1934

Before you build or renovate ...

- ☐ Check whether your property is older than 60 years.
- ☐ Establish whether heritage approval is required.
- ☐ Use an architect with heritage experience where appropriate.
- ☐ Obtain all required permits and approvals before starting work.
- ☐ Talk to your neighbours.
- ☐ Keep your approved plans safe and up to date.

Find a summary of the approvals process at parkview.org.za/services/.

Inspired by what you've read?

Get involved in the heritage sub-committee by contacting info@parkview.org.za.

Newsletter compiled by Felicity Bailey, Franc Brugman, Catherine de Souza and Lenska Tweedy (with drawings by Lenska Tweedy).