

Bryanston East Community Forum

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Newsletter August 2009

Dear residents and members

I am back from leave and what a wonderful time we had. But, it is time to get back to work and catch up on what is happening in our area.

We are planning a get together, for later this month, with representatives from SAPS as well as the agencies we work with on a daily basis (JRA, City Parks, City Power and so on).

On 5 September 2009 (from 9am to 2pm) we will be assisting Bryanston Shopping Centre with a river clean up. Schools in the area, scouts and residents have been invited to get involved. We will meet at the 1st Rivertrail Scout Hall (The River Road, Bryanston) and will be cleaning the section of river between Ballyclare and Bryanston Drive. Please support this initiative.

The annual SAPS Potjiekos competition is scheduled for 19 September 2009. We look forward to SAPS, ER24 and PROTEA COIN cooking up a storm! Residents are invited to join us at the 1st Rivertrail Scout Hall between 10am and 3pm.

The third session of the 2009 Domestic Watch Program started at the end of July and ends on 9 September. Other than the flyers which are delivered to residences, the domestics and gardeners are now also informed of meetings via sms. ER24 has been supporting the project and we have received positive feedback from the attendees. There is one more session left and at the beginning of December we will be hosting a prize giving ceremony, giving certificates to the domestics and gardeners who attended 3 or 4 out of the four scheduled meetings in 2009.

I hope our newsletters keep you informed of community activities and also provide you with relevant and helpful information to prevent crime. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue -please keep the thoughts, news and comments coming! Submissions can be sent to elfrieda@becf.co.za.

Regards
Elfrieda

REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE and RECOVER

There are a number of ways in which plastic waste can be minimised, but the best answer lies in combining the concept of the 4 R's: reduce, re-use, recycle and recover.

REDUCE

The first step towards minimising overall waste, is to reduce the amount of raw materials used to make plastic. Today's packaging is up to 80% lighter than plastic packaging used 20 years ago, meaning less energy is used in their manufacture and transport.

Plastics are increasingly being used to replace other materials to achieve overall resource reduction. Some examples where resource reduction has been successfully achieved:

- The introduction of refill pack for detergents. This resulted in a 70% reduction in material used.
- The stretch film used for pallets can now be made with up to 40% less material.
- Expanded polystyrene cups use 5% polymer and 95% air to replace other materials with a bigger impact on the environment.

RE-USE

Re-using plastic items gives them a longer life and reduces the total volume of waste. All of us practice re-use in our everyday life:

- We use plastic bags as bin liners.
- We use ice cream containers for freezing our food.
- We buy refills at the supermarket. . . and so on. . .

RECYCLE

Industrial post-consumer waste, such as film used for the transportation and storage of goods, is suited for mechanical recycling because of the large amounts of single plastic type and relative cleanliness of the waste.

Domestic household plastic waste is more difficult to mechanically recycle due to contamination and the large number of different types of plastic involved, although there are several successful recycling programs in place.

Recycled plastic is also used to make outdoor furniture, garbage bags, mobile garbage bins, guide posts, chemical spill trays, film, bumper bars, water tanks etc.

RECOVER

There are some plastics that cannot be recycled mechanically. These include medical waste, food packages, confectionary wrappers and personal hygiene products. These will be uneconomical to recycle or would use more energy in the collection, sorting and cleaning than would be saved by recycling.

Energy recovery involves the collection of solid waste to be burned at high temperatures to produce energy for power and heating. These facilities are commonly known as "Waste to Energy" plants. Facilities are in place in many parts of Europe and Japan.

Please get involved in recycling projects in your area.

Elfrieda Loubser

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- **Metro Emergencies, Ambulances, Accidents** - 011 375 5911
- **Police** - 10111
- **Fire** - 10177
- **Sandton Police Station** - 011 722 4200/4355
- **Victim Support** - 082 774 7564
- **Inspector Lee Ramdiyil** - 083 775 4674
- **Joburg Connect** - 011 375 5555
(City Council, parks, water & electricity)
- **Electricity Eskom** - 086 003 7566
- **Water** (24 hour helpline) - 011 688 1500
- **ER24** - 084 124
- **Coin Control Room** - 086 180 7000
- **Coin Vehicle N12** - 082 053 3547
- **Coin Vehicle N17** - 082 825 3763
- **Coin Vehicle N18** - 082 461 5054
- **Coin Vehicle N19** - 076 629 0902
- **Chris van Zyl** - 082 649 4785
(Dedicated Coin Sales Consultant)



PROTEA COIN Update

TOUGH ECONOMY VS. TOUGH CRIMINALS:

Protea Coin Group, a South African owned security company, who proved their services over a period of more than 35 years, invites you to make use of their Security Advisors for free assessments, advice and information regarding security and safety issues.

Companies are cutting back, people are tightening their belts, and many decision-makers are holding off on security purchases. However, crime is not decreasing during this period, and criminals don't feel sorry for you! Security and safety should always (and still) be the first point on anybody's monthly expense list.

That is why it is very important to deal with a professional security company:

- A company that cares for you.
- A company who understands the current financial situation,
- A company who is able to meet the needs of the community, and
- A company who can provide a real peace of mind service to everybody.
- A company who is part of the community, and of course,
- A company who is trusted by the community.

Please contact Chris van Zyl

Telephone: 011-802-4338

Cellular: 082 649 4785

E-Mail: vanzylc@proteacoin.co.za

CRIME STATISTICS

Dr. Rudolph Zinn of the School of Criminal Justice at UNISA did intensive research on residential robberies and attacks, and interviewed many arrested and convicted robbers. Some of his findings are alarming, some are surprising - but they are all well worth taking note of.

- During the past year, house robberies increased by 13,5%.
- Of the almost 15 000 residential robberies committed in 2008, half (50%) took place in Gauteng.
- The average age of a house robber is between 19 and 26 years.
- An average of 30% of all house robbers have either committed murder, or won't hesitate to commit murder.
- Only 17% of house robbers are foreigners.
- Of all arrested robbers, 90% had no matric or were unemployed. The 10% who had been employed, gave up their jobs when confirming how much they could "earn" from a robbery.
- Most victims or targets are affluent persons who openly display their wealth, e.g. expensive cars, jewellery, up market homes.
- Much intelligence is gathered about the target home and its residents by means of inside information supplied by domestic workers.
- **Eighty percent of residential robberies are committed with the help of information from domestic workers, gardeners and former employees.**
- The robbers will monitor the home and movements for as long as is needed to formulate a plan of attack - sometimes up to two weeks.
- All gangs research and monitor the response times of armed response companies.
- Most attacks occur between 19:00 and midnight as people are relaxed, busy cooking or watching TV, and the security systems and beams are not activated. But robberies continue until 04:00 in the morning.
- The biggest deterrent confirmed by robbers themselves, are small dogs that are kept inside the home.
- **Alarm systems and armed reaction services are not considered a deterrent. Electric fences, closed-circuit TV (CCTV) and detection beams do, however, deter robbers.**
- An average of R5 000 is stolen during each robbery.
- Surprisingly, victims of house robberies are only seriously injured in 2% of all incidents.
- Only 35% of robbers stole for basic needs (hunger, poverty), while 65% enjoyed the money and spent it on clothes, cars, etc.
- The average robber commits 103 robberies over seven years before being caught.
- A staggering 97% of all robbers are armed and on average there are four members in an armed robbery gang.
- Most attackers' homes or bases are a 10 to 30 minute drive from the target address.
- Women are more often tortured or hurt during house robberies.
- The conviction rate for house robberies in South Africa is only 7.67%. In the USA it is 53%.

While these statistics and facts may be disturbing, even alarming, UASA trusts that it may sharpen the vigilance of each member. If you have safety measures at your home, ensure that they are in place. Test your security equipment regularly. Never be complacent and think that it only happens to other people.

It is in your own best interest rather to be safe than sorry!

Inspector Lee Ramdiyai



Please support BECF by joining MySchool. For more information please contact the BECF offices or visit their website on www.myschool.co.za



pool boys

Pool Maintenance
R350pm

Includes:
weekly visit & all chemicals

083 261 6619