

Bryanston East Community Forum

P O Box 71673 Bryanston 2021 Tel: 011 463 6066
admin@becf.co.za www.becf.co.za

Newsletter August 2008

Dear residents and members of BECF

Welcome to the August issue of the newsletter.

In this issue you will find some more safety tips, feedback from the River Rangers, news on environmental issues and lots more. I would like to invite all residents to get involved in our Domestic Watch project. With the support and co-operation of members and residents, initiatives like these will grow.

Simon Bannister, from the company "RE" has been accepted on the board at the Braamfontein Spruit Trust Association and he would like to create a forum for ideas in dealing with problems, like vagrants, along the spruit. I urge all residents to please forward thoughts and ideas to the BECF offices.

The SAPS Potjiekos Competition and River Clean Up is happening 13 September 2008. This event promises to be a fun filled day for the whole family.

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 news and comments coming! Submissions can be sent to: elfrieda@becf.co.za.

Regards
Elfrieda Loubser

Domestic Watch

In 2005 the BECF Domestic Watch Program was launched and thanks to the efforts of Inspector Lee Ramdiyol and the co-operation of residents this initiative has grown.

Some advice to domestic workers:

- Be alert at all times - get to know the area and the people around you.
- Alert the security and the police whenever you see anything or anyone suspicious. Make sure to provide a full description:
 - make of vehicle;
 - colour of vehicle;
 - registration number;
 - how many occupants;
 - what were they wearing; and
 - in what direction they drove off.



Inspector Ramdiyol speaks to domestic workers at a domestic watch meeting

- Do not share information of your boss's whereabouts or anything pertaining to the residence to anybody.
- Do not leave gates open, especially in the driveway.
- When inside the house always lock all the security gates and doors.
- If leaving the house, even for a few minutes, activate security system.

For more information and dates for the proposed Domestic Watch meetings please contact the BECF office.

Braamfontein Spruit Environmental Issues Recommendations 1

In the July BECF Newsletter, after the Braamfontein Spruit reWALK event, we reported on the environmental issues affecting the Spruit. In this issue we would like to share some recommendations and possible solutions with more to follow in the next issue of the BECF Newsletter.

First and foremost we need to create an awareness of the situation.

We truly believe that most of the walled community of Johannesburg have no idea as to the dire situation of our waterways. The media has a crucial role to play in this; as do our community agencies and councillors. Pressure must be placed on people with influence to do the exact same walk as we did and see firsthand the squalor.

The squatters must be removed

It is unacceptable to have people living by the rivers and under bridges. If they live there what is to stop them living on the sides of the roads and in car parks. The government must come up with a solution and end this now. Perhaps we need to get creative and "employ" the people to clean and safe-guard a section of river. In return they can be provided with nominal housing and a food stipend.

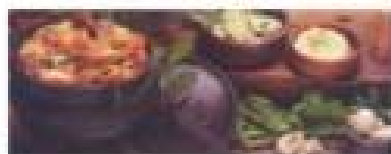
We should work hand-in-hand with the Universities of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand

Environmental and Natural Science students have to do practical work so why not get them to perform SASS 5 ratings and water tests at various points along the river. This could then be monitored consistently enabling one to gauge the success of and correction measures taken. The science is there so let us use it!

We have reached a tipping point where we need to act; a time where we need to give back to the earth upon which we depend.

Simon and Adam Bannister
www.re.org.za

Join us for the SAPS Potjiekos Competition



and
River Clean Up

on
Saturday 13 September 2008
from 10am to 3pm

at the 1st Rivertrail Scout Hall (The River Road, Bryanston)

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Lots of fun for the whole family!



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 Ramdiyol - 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
- 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 - 072 051 7350
- Chris van Zyl - 073 145 3600 (Dedicated Coin Sales Consultant)



Committed to
Service Excellence
COIN Update

ANNUAL PRICE ADJUSTMENT

The Protea Coin Group would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the support residents and members of BECF have shown us during this past year. Your vital and valued contribution is decisive in ensuring that we are able to maintain our dedicated and very serious fight against crime. Your support does make a difference in our effort to win the fight against crime!

After carefully evaluating the effects of inflation and the ever escalating price of fuel, we have been left with no other alternative but to pass through an annual increase on all accounts. We would like to assure you that we have made a concerted and determined effort to ensure that the increase is kept to the absolute minimum. This will be effective from 1 September 2008.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your local Branch Manager, Riaan Fourie at (011) 802 4338.

In our July Newsletter under the heading "SAPS - BASIC TIPS ON CRIME PREVENTION", tip number 9 reads: "Limit night-time trips, and try not to travel alone. If this cannot be helped, drive with your hazard lights on." We would like to retract the statement referring to driving with hazards on. This statement is incorrect and driving with your hazard lights on is, in fact, not allowed. We apologize for misinforming our readers.

SAFETY TIPS - OFFICE SECURITY

1. Do not leave wallets in jackets or handbags.
2. Do not leave handbags or briefcases open.
3. Do not leave valuables, such as cell phones and keys, on your desk.
4. Keep your desk drawers locked.
5. Should you have to leave your desk unattended for long periods get into the habit of asking a colleague to keep an eye on your desk.
6. Keep confidential information locked away at all times.
7. Do not advertise where you keep your petty cash box. Lock in a safe after hours.
8. Challenge strangers in the office area.
9. Keep vacant offices locked.
10. If contractors are working in your office area, ensure they are properly supervised and do not wander around.
11. Get into a habit of spending the last few minutes of the day checking that your immediate desk area is secured.
12. Ensure that all audio-visual equipment, cameras, laptops and cellphones are switched off and/or locked away.
13. Try not to work alone late at night.
14. Create a "buddy system" when walking to parking areas or for public transportation, or ask somebody to escort you.

Sector meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of every month at 18:30 at St. Michaels Church (cnr Bryanston Drive and Mount road). All residents and business owners are welcome to attend.

Along the Spruit

The Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project was approved some time back and construction of the section from 14th Avenue northwards has commenced. Many of us - horsemen, cyclists and walkers did not know about it until we met a solid wall on the trail and looked over to see bulldozers on the other side of it. The N1 bridge over the spruit is to be expanded to four lanes. The national Roads Agency state that "The construction should be completed by May 2010, but if it is not, work will be stopped for a three month period to allow unimpeded traffic flow during the FIFA 2010 World Cup". Until then it will not be possible to move along the Braamfontein spruit from Bryanston section to the Paulshof side. For more information about the roads project go to www.nra.co.za



It is an exciting time of the year on the rivers (mid August as I write). The Egyptian geese are being followed by families of tiny goslings. The yellow billed as well as a number of exotic and domestic ducks have joined the African Ducks on the water. A pair of black winged stilts have been spotted again after an absence of a year. The first signs of spring are here!

www.riverrangers.org.za

Bryanston Recycling Collection Service

If you have ever wanted to recycle but thought it was too much of a hassle then this service is for you.

How it works: 'AT HOME'

Sign up and receive a recycling bin into which you can place all your paper, plastic, glass and cans.

We will then come to your house and empty your recycling bin, twice a month.

The service costs just R600 a year and includes a free wheelie bin.

How it works: 'AT WORK'

Sign up for our **FREE** office paper collection service. Once a week, we will collect your office paper from your premises.

Or simply bring your recycling to our collection depot in the parking lot of the Hobart Shopping Centre, Bryanston. (cnr Hobart and Grosvenor rd)

To sign up or find out more call 011 704 6096 or email info@wholeearth.co.za

