

Bryanston East Community Forum

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Newsletter

January/February 2009

Dear members and residents

Welcome to 2009! We hope you had a memorable and safe festive season, wherever you were.

Our Domestic Watch project kicks off at the end of January in Petervale and Kleve Hill Park. We are planning on visiting each area 4 times this year. The meetings will continue throughout February, every Tuesday and Wednesday. Residents will be informed of these meetings about a week in advance. The meetings will include a crime prevention update presented by Inspector Lee Ramdiyal as well as Q&A sessions and a lecture on various relevant issues like first aid around the house, HIV Aids and other medical subjects.

The first open day at the Bird Sanctuary in Hans Crescent was held on Sunday 25 January. These open days are scheduled for the last Sunday of every month (unless they fall in school holidays). Keep an eye out for the banner advertising the dates and times on the corner of The River Road and Hans Crescent.

Knowing what is going on in our community is very important and fighting crime together goes a long way to preventing crime. As a member of BECF you have the opportunity to make a positive contribution towards crime prevention and community projects. Your monthly contributions are vital and assist BECF in tackling various projects and dealing with important community issues.

I hope our newsletters keep you informed of community activities and projects. Comments and contributions (articles, crime feedback and so on) can be sent to elfrieda@becf.co.za. I look forward to hearing from you.

Elfrieda Loubser

WASTE RECYCLING

The definition of recycling is to re-process material to enable that substance to be reused i.e. glass bottles that are crushed, melted and remoulded into bottles.

Waste recycling involves the collection of waste materials and the separation and cleaning of these materials. Recycling waste means that fewer new products and consumables need to be produced, saving raw materials and reducing energy consumption. It also reduces waste to landfills.

In South Africa there are many challenges related to waste recycling:

Separation of recyclables

A successful recycling operation requires clean and uniform collections of single waste types and this is most effectively achieved by separating the waste close to the source, at home or on the factory floor rather than at the landfill site.

Value of recyclables

The financial incentives for waste recycling are perceived as relatively small to the waste producer but through waste recycling we significantly reduce the cost of the overall waste management service.

Job creation

Waste recycling operations create jobs and work and income is created for the entrepreneurs who trade in recyclables.

Motivation needs to be environmental responsibility

The primary motivation for recycling needs to be that it is the right thing to do, for our environment, for our children and their children. Many resources are scarce or difficult to renew, for example trees for paper pulp. Recycling is a responsible approach to "saving" resources and the environment.

What can be recycled?

Commonly recycled materials include paper/cardboard, plastic, glass, cans, metals, oils and compostable garden refuse. Over the next few months we will take a closer look at the recycling of some of these materials.



The universal recycling symbol

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 Ramdiyal - 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 - 076 629 0902
- Chris van Zyl - 082 649 4785
(Dedicated Coin Sales Consultant)



COIN Update

We would like to welcome all the residents back from holiday and hope that you have returned home safely. Thank you to all the residents who contributed to the Christmas gifts for the wardens and reaction officers. During the festive season our clients only experienced four incidents of crime. We believe that this was due to the dedicated service from the reaction vehicles' proactive patrolling in the area.

During the course of January, we will resume the river patrols by the mounted unit to displace vagrants by the river. Residents are urged to be alert to suspicious people walking or driving through the area. Residents can contact the 24 hour control room or the individual patrol vehicles for assistance.

A few useful tips:

- Keep doors and gates closed and locked to prevent opportunistic criminals from entering.
- Never leave keys in the ignition when climbing out of the car to open a gate.
- Don't open doors and/or gates to strangers.
- If you buy luxury goods, cut up the boxes and dispose of them in black rubbish bags as a branded box is a tell-tale sign of what thieves could find in your house.

CRIME UPDATE: FESTIVE PERIOD

Hi All,

Hope you had a great December break?

We had a lot of burglaries taking place over the holiday period with random robberies taking place as well.

Now it is January and crime is expected to increase as the criminals are also back from holiday and their wallets are empty. So please people, be extra vigilant.

With regards to burglaries, make sure your security systems (electric fences, alarm and beams) are working and lock away all garden tools or anything that can be used to break into your home or business.

On robberies, also make sure that your security systems (panic buttons and cctv - preferably recording) are working, but most importantly be vigilant.

Victims are accosted in homes and driveways. You are followed home or to your place of business from shopping centres, banks, etc. Be alert at all times. Get to know your surroundings and happenings around you. If you are followed or find suspicious persons in the vicinity of your home or business, contact 10111 (POLICE) or your security service provider.

Special thanks to the residents that are supporting and participating in the security initiative in Bryanston East. We have successfully reduced crime by about 40% in the area. We are planning on growing the Domestic Watch Project and in order for this to be successful we need the support of all the residents.

Crime affects every individual, either directly or indirectly. Crime should be every individual's concern. It is time to stand together against crime and let the criminals know that we have adopted a "Zero Tolerance" attitude towards any forms of crime. I hope that this year there will be less or zero apathy and more residents getting involved in making sector 2 (Bryanston East, Kleve Hill Park, Petervale and Riverclub) a safer place to live in.

Once again I ask: "Help me to help you".

I look forward to working closely with the residents and businesses of Sector 2 to eradicate this disease known as CRIME.

Inspector Lee Ramdiyal
Sector Manager

Along the Spruit 4

In the early 1980's, The Sandton Nature Conservation Society published The Sandton Field Book subtitled A guide to the Natural History of the Northern Witwatersrand. This book has been out of print for a long time. For any nature lover who finds a copy in a second hand book shop, it is a must buy. There are sections on mammals, birds, reptiles, fish insects and trees. My only fear about the publication is that too soon it may be no more than a list of what we used to be able to see in Sandton.

The section of trees written by J.D. Carr lists forty six indigenous trees, not counting shrubs and climbers. One of these is the Deurmekaarbos or Puzzle bush which Carr always referred to as the Municipality tree, a reference to his view that not only was every municipality disorganized but also that they paid too little attention to conservation.

I am indebted to Nan Jackson for a list of the indigenous trees that are common along the Braamfonteinspruit:

- Acacia caffra (Hook Thorn/ Haakdoring)
- Acacia galpinii (Monkey thorn/Apiesdoring)
- Acacia karroo (Sweet thorn/Soet doring)
- Acacia sieberiana (Paperbark thorn/Papiersbasdoring)
- Buddleja saligna (False olive/Witolienhout)
- Celtis africana (White stinkwood/Witstinkhout)
- Combretum erythrophyllum (River bushwillow/Vaderlandswilg)
- Dombeya rotundifolia (Wild Pear/Drolpeer)
- Ehretia rigida (Puzzle bush/Deumekaaarbos)
- Kiggelaria africana (Wild peach/Wildeperske)
- Olea europaea subsp africana (Wild olive/Olienhout)
- Rhus lancea (Karee)
- Rhus pyroides (Firethorn/Brandblaarbos)
- Ziziphus mucronata (Blinkblaar-wag-n-bietjie/ Buffalo thorn).

There has been an invasion of a number of exotics. Not least among them is the mulberry. Despite the sweetness of the fruit, there is a real worry about how quickly this tree is propagating all along the rivers edge particularly in the Paulshof area.

Trees are not always easy to identify. A good book on the subject is Keith, Paul and Meg Coates Palgrave's Everyone's Guide to Trees of South Africa published by Struik.

Andrew Murray

www.riverrangers.org.za

