

Bryanston East Community Forum

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Newsletter

October 2008

Dear residents and members of BECF

Welcome to the October issue of the BECF newsletter.

In this issue you will find more safety tips, a PROTEA COIN update, feedback from the Open Day at the Hans Crescent bird sanctuary and more.

During the month of October we hosted three Domestic Watch meetings. These meetings were well attended and Inspector Lee Ramdiyal provided the domestic workers and gardeners with useful tips on the prevention of crime. The workers were also given some guidelines on what to do if they were the victims of crime. We are looking at growing this project as from 2009 and everyone's comments and suggestions are welcome.

At the moment we deliver about 4500 newsletters to all residents in the Bryanston East, Kievehill Park, Petervale and Riverclub areas. Of these there are only an estimated 600 members. As we are a nonprofit organisation we depend on donations from residents and businesses for our survival and for a monthly donation of R100 residents can become members of the Bryanston East Community Forum. These donations are utilised to pay wages of our dedicated cleaning team keeping the streets and the area alongside the river neat and tidy, to pay incentives to the PROTEA COIN guards as well as for other projects like the monthly Newsletter and Domestic Watch. If you sign up with PROTEA COIN the R100 donated to Bryanston East Community Forum is included in the monthly subscription.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please go to our website, www.becf.co.za, to register or contact the BECF office on (011) 463-6066 and we will fax/e-mail you a registration form.

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter - keep the news and comments coming. Submissions can be sent to: elfrieda@becf.co.za

Regards
Elfrieda Loubser

Open Day at the Bird Sanctuary

The world bird sanctuary's mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments.

Their work is to fulfill that mission through education, captive breeding, field studies and rehabilitation.

An Open Day, at to the Bird Sanctuary on the corner of Hans Crescent and Devonshire Ave in Bryanston East was arranged for the 5th October 2008. The event was advertised in the September Newsletter which was delivered to all home-owners in the area and flyers were dropped off at nursery schools.

Come the day and all of the Forum's management and support teams from SAPS and PROTEA COIN brought their families and picnic baskets in the hope of a well attended outing. Sadly Bryanston residents let us down once more. Only three visitors made the effort to support the outing.

We were delighted to welcome Margi Brocklehurst, Director of Free Me, who had brought along Miss Wobbly, an injured hedgehog, lovingly being cared for by Dr Jill Drake, a director of the Free Me Rehabilitation Centre. Margi is quoted as saying "A close encounter with one of our "educational creatures" is the best way to encourage a caring interest in wildlife, particularly with children".



We urge all residents to support this centre that has an important role to play in educating the public. A quarterly magazine is published, posted to all members and is packed with stories and interesting information. See their website: www.freemewildlife.org.za

We would like to make the sanctuary more inviting by purchasing a few benches and perhaps a table here and there which would be great should a picnic be planned. Suggestions are welcomed and we look forward to feedback from you.

Here's a sincere request to all of you to join in when functions are planned, after all - we have your interests at heart and growth in Bryanston depends on your participation. Looking forward to that!

Ilse Wolff



The Bryanston East Community Forum (BECF) currently employs five cleaners as well as a driver/handyman. These guys clean the streets and parks weekly. They are (from left to right) Sten Vilani, Shaun Ndaba, Thomas Mufamadi, Phillip Maluleke, Rabelani Mufamadi and Thomas Baloyi.

VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND

There will be voter registration nationally on the 8th and 9th November 2008. This is in preparation for National and Provincial elections next year.

The registration weekend will also allow voters who have changed their address since the last election to re-register and update their details on the National Common Voter's Roll.

The nearest polling stations are:

1. Bryanston Parallel Medium School in Sloane Steet
2. Bryneven Primary School in Mount Street

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 - 073 145 3600
(Dedicated Coin Sales Consultant)



COIN Update

Protea Coin Group is proud to announce that crime in the Bryanston area has not increased. Protea Coin clients were least affected by the crime incidents and only 13.5% of the crimes that were committed happened to Protea Coin clients. 86.5% of the incidents were clients of other security companies.

We are heading for December and are therefore urging all residents to be more observant of their surroundings as crime usually increases during this period of time. We therefore request all residents to implement the following.

Safety tips:

- Test your alarm bi weekly with the control room of your service provider to ensure that it is working correctly.
- Be aware of any vehicles behind you when approaching your home.
- If you are uneasy continue past your home and return via another route.
- Be on the look-out for any pedestrians or stationary vehicles near your gate/driveway.
- Don't leave any gates, garage doors, front or back open or partially open as this will attract opportunistic criminals.
- Always pay attention when your dogs bark and investigate with caution.
- Empty your mail box daily and collect newspapers, to avoid that opportunistic criminals will believe no one is home.
- Ensure that your gate entrance and gardens are well lit as this deters criminals.
- Ensure that your house is clearly numbered to assist reaction officers and police responding to your premises in case of emergencies.

Inspector Lee Ramdiyai advises: What to do during an armed robbery

1. Guidelines

When an armed robbery takes place at a location (store, warehouse, factory, distribution centre etc.) the likelihood of the incident turning violent, resulting in injuries to personnel and customers, can be effectively reduced by the behavior of the staff and customers.

Don't resist!

Do exactly as you are told. The robbers are in control of the situation because they are armed, and it serves no purpose to resist their instructions - you will only be putting your lives at risk.

Relax

Regulate your breathing, taking long, slow deliberate breaths. This slows your heart rate and helps you relax.

Speak slowly

Don't shout or raise your voice to the robbers. They are probably more nervous than you, and it won't take much for them to lose any self-control they may possess.

Don't make any sudden movements

When you want to do something - even if it is on instruction from the robber - tell him what you're doing- "I am going to take the keys out of my pocket now" - and then do it slowly.

Don't set off the siren

Activate the alarm only if you can do so secretly. Many armed robberies have turned violent (with hostages taken) because the siren puts the robbers into a panic. Also, only set off the alarm if you can do so without the robbers seeing you. Setting an alarm can also trigger a violent response.

Don't look the robber directly in the face

The robber may believe that you are trying to memorise his features for later identification, and could lead to him shooting you in order to prevent this.

Give the robbers time to leave

Don't shout or do anything else until the robbers have left the premises. Don't try to be a hero. Don't attempt to prevent the robbers' get-away. Many crime scenes have turned violent as the robbers are leaving, resulting in deaths and injuries to staff and customers.

2. Observation Techniques

Clear information on the robbers assists in the SAPS investigation. However, this should not be done at the risk of your life or that of the persons around you.

- Don't make it obvious that you are observing the robbers.
- Focus on one person at a time.
- Gain an overall impression first
 - = Height
 - = Build
 - = Firearm or other weapon
 - = Clothing
 - = Special features like a limp, deformities, birthmarks etc.
- Then look at details
 - = Facial features - round/sharp
 - = Eyes - close set/wide apart etc.
- Remember any names used by the robbers when talking to each other.
- Remember what they touch, where they walk, any cigarette butts discarded, body fluids deposited etc.
- Vehicles - the same rules apply, overall impression first and then the details
 - = Make and model
 - = Colour
 - = Noticeable features
 - = Registration number

3. Cash protection techniques

It is a fact that most armed robberies in shops and department stores take place with information provided by employees or contractors in that store.

Very few organized armed robbers will risk their lives or face the risk of being apprehended if they are not well informed and know exactly when the cash is available, and where it is.

Bearing the above in mind and by following the techniques set out below armed robberies in stores will be drastically reduced.

THE ALARM SYSTEM

- Ensure that you have a good alarm system that is well maintained.
- Ensure that the alarm is connected to an armed response company.
- Ensure that you have static panic buttons placed in strategic areas of your store e.g. in the cash office or strong room.
- Ensure that you have enough portable panic buttons that are worn by all members of management at all times.
- Ensure that the panic buttons are tested regularly.

OPENING AND CLOSING PROCEDURE

- Never open or close your store at exactly the same time every day.
- Try not to follow the same route to your store every day.
- Never open the store on your own.
- Ensure that someone armed with a panic button monitors the opening and closing procedure away from the store.
- Ensure that you have adequate lighting at your entry point.

SAFES

- Ensure that you have an adequate fortified drop safe.
- Ensure that the keys to the drop safe are not kept together or on the premises at the same time, except when cash collections are taking place.

CASH COLLECTION

- Ensure that cash is continuously picked up at the tills throughout the day.
- The cash office must continuously count and drop the cash into the drop safe.
- Cash-ups must be staggered, and not done in one go.
- Never do full cash-up at the end of the trading day.

1st Rivertrail Scout Hall

The River Road, Bryanston

The Scout Hall is available to the community for parties, braais and meetings for such things as educational and religious groups as well as training like judo ballet or whatever. For more details and to book please contact Tamlyn on 011 304 8600.