

Bryanston East Community Forum

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Newsletter Last Quarter 2011

Dear residents and members

As 2011 races rapidly towards its end, it is hard to believe that BECF has been in existence for 7 years. We have progressed from employing a part time office manager and 2 cleaners to employing a full time office manager and a team of 7 cleaners working in Bryanston East, Petervale, Klevehill Park and Riverclub area cleaning up the streets, parks and greenbelts. The biggest section of greenbelt in our area is the Braamfontein Spruit which we clean on a regular basis and which in theory is maintained by City Parks but in practice is not really maintained. We have managed to purchase a lawnmower and a couple of brush cutters and try to keep the paths, cycle tracks next to the spruit tidy.

We are already busy with a project to convert part of the Braamfontein Spruit into a formal park in conjunction with one of the shopping centres in our area but this will only touch a relatively small part of the Spruit.

As the BECF we would like to launch a new project to maintain and upgrade the Spruit area along the entire length in our area i.e.

- Keep it clean and cut.
- Improve the paths and cycle trails.
- Improve the security so that residents feel safe using this area.

Last year we started a program of filling potholes that had been outstanding on JRA lists for more than a week. This resulted in JRA racing around and fixing pot holes before we could. We intend to initiate this program again as soon as the situation warrants it with the summer rains on the way.

Our domestic watch meetings are growing from strength to strength and the various speakers have proved very popular. We decided this year that it was just not possible to have one prize giving event given the number of domestics that would be attending. Last year the prize giving lasted 5 hours and there were quite a few complaints. This year we presented domestics who had attended all four meetings with certificates, mugs and a "Chicken Licken" lunch at their last meeting. This initiative is fully funded by BECF.

There is a signed SLA in place between BECF and ADT covering armed response, "Bobby on the Beat" and road closure guards. ADT performance is monitored on an ongoing basis by BECF on behalf of the residents. The ratio of clients to vehicles in the area cannot exceed 200 and the vehicles have to be on patrol for at least 50% of their shifts. We currently have 5 vehicles in the area. Over the years because of this relationship with ADT, we have seen crime in our area drop by more than 40%.

As you know we are funded by a R100 donation from the residents of our area and our thanks go to each and every one of you for your support over the past 7 years. We have reached a stage where we are breaking even every month and consequently will not be able to increase our staff or grow BECF without help from you.

We would really appreciate it, if our members would consider raising their monthly contributions to R120 or R150 with effect from January.

Residents who are not members, please consider joining us, at the end of the day you are the ones who are benefiting.

Please contact Elfrieda at our office 011 463 6066 or at elfrieda@becf.co.za for our banking details and any further information you may require.

Wishing you all a peaceful, safe holiday.

Gail Prior

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
- **Warrant Officer Walter Kwanaite** - 082 388 5996
- **Joburg Connect** - 011 375 5555
- **Electricity Eskom** - 086 003 7566
- **Water** (24 hour helpline) - 011 688 1500
- **Netcare 24hr emergency** - 082 911
- **Control Room** - 086 12 12 400
- **R-01** - 082 461 5054
- **R-03** - 083 411 2674
- **R-04** - 083 701 2199
- **R-15** - 082 053 3547
- **Dedicated SAPS Vehicles** - 071 675 6096
071 675 6095



SECURITY UPDATE

Because of the time of the year there has been an increase in crime. Burglaries remain a concern and also the fact that in 90% of incidents in our area the alarms were not set. Your alarm is our call to action so please use it for what it is intended!

Business owners also need to be extra vigilant, especially in the build-up to the festive season. Ensure all staff have panic buttons and that you secure access to your business as far as possible.

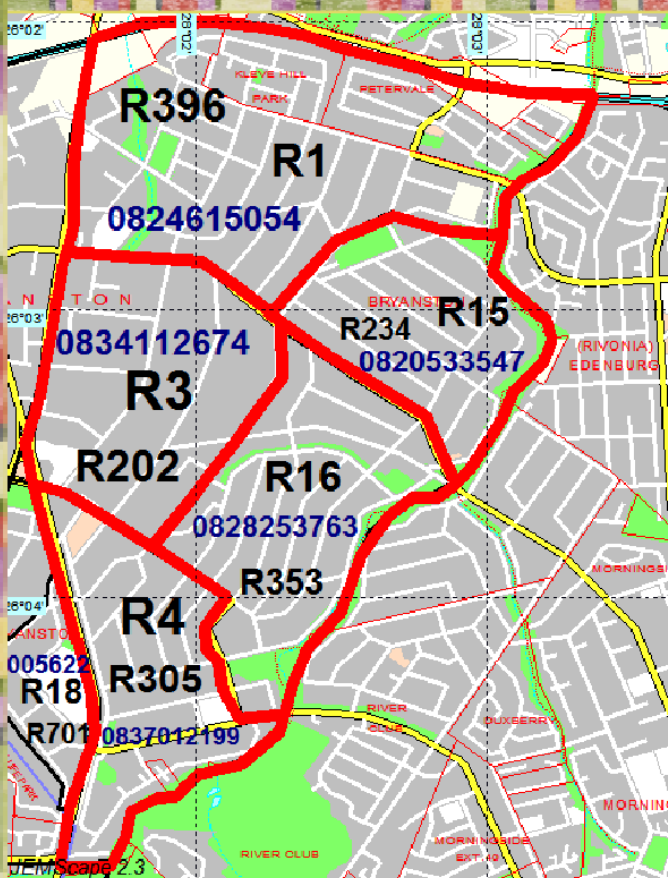
Armed robbers strike at any time. I urge you to please take your personal security seriously by ensuring that you keep your gates and doors locked at all times. When you are at home it is advisable to arm your perimeter and outdoor detection security and also zones inside your home which you are not occupying.

Please remember that the BECF area is protected by five dedicated ADT patrol vehicles. Our clients can contact these vehicles directly to book a meet and greet or to report anything suspicious. Please, make use of our value-added services for your own peace of mind. Better safe than sorry!

To find out which of the dedicated patrol vehicles is the primary vehicle for the street you live in, please have a look at the map below. You can also contact your ADT Community Security Manager, Pieter Venter, on pventer.jhb.za@adt.co.za, who will give you the relevant cellphone number for that vehicle.

Testing your alarm is a quick and simple process which can be done via a cellphone or landline. Act today! Our friendly Call Centre staff will assist you with testing your alarm and booking a service call should you require one. Contact ADT on **086 12 12 400** now!

Hoping you are surrounded by love and warmth this holiday season.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Pavement Pride

Have you ever noticed how you feel when you pass through an area with beautifully manicured, clean pavement gardens? It makes you aware of the pride that the homeowners associated with these gardens have for their area of influence. It also highlights those that are unkempt and uncared for and makes you wonder about the difference in the home owners.

It certainly must influence the perceived value of the neighbourhood and inspires neighbours to "keep up" and invites others to move in. Beautifying our neighbourhood is surely something we all have an interest in. It doesn't need to cost a lot and simply requires some time and dedication. If you have any thoughts on hot spots which you would really like to see improved, let us know and we will see how we can influence our friendly City Parks people where it falls into their domain or alternatively drop a gentle hint to those who might need some encouragement.

Karen Soderholm



HAVE YOU LOCKED YOUR CAR?

Criminals loiter in parking lots or sit in vehicles and override your 'remote' signal as you 'click' and casually walk away. You may think you've locked your car but it is still open. When you're away items of value are swiftly removed. No broken glass, no forced entry and no insurance payout. Store all items in your boot, but don't pack away in full view of the criminals lurking in the parking lots. Lock your car with your key, or if you must use electronic means - physically check the doors before leaving. Prevent "Smash & Grabs" by keeping seats and floor clear of valuables when driving and by keeping all doors locked. Keep your windows closed at intersections. Continually check that you are not being followed. Be aware - be safe.

The Sandton Community Police Forum
www.sandtoncpf.co.za

The Bryanston East Community Forum
(BECF) would like to thank
Dimension Data
for their financial contribution
towards cleaning the
Braamfontein Spruit