

Bryanston East Community Forum

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Newsletter September 2008

Dear residents and members of BECF

Welcome to Spring and the September issue of our newsletter

This time of the year the trees are covered in blossoms and the smell of jasmine fills the air. After the first rains, the park area alongside the Braamfontein Spruit will come to life. The spruit is beautiful, with waterfalls tumbling over boulders and rocks. On the grassy banks there are weeping willows, gum trees and reeds with an abundance of bird life. It is also popular with residents who go for walks and cycle alongside the river. With the last of the autumn winds carrying the cold away, spring brings the promise of life with a spring in our step - enjoy!

Our Domestic Watch project received positive feedback and two Domestic Watch meetings have been scheduled for the near future. If you would like to organise a Domestic Watch meeting in your area, please contact the BECF offices to make the necessary arrangements.

We have an Open Day scheduled at the Bird Sanctuary on Hans Crescent on 5 October 2008. All residents are invited to pack a picnic basket and come for a walk anytime between 10am and 3pm.

I hope our newsletters keep you informed of community activities and 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

SAPS Potjiekos Competition and River Clean Up

On 13 September 2008 the Bryanston East Community Form (BECF) hosted the annual SAPS Potjiekos Competition at the Scout Hall in River Road. It started off as a cloudy and miserable day but still the members of the Sandton Police Station, Netcare and PROTEA COIN showed up ready for a cook-off.

Six teams entered the competition and things were taken very seriously. Points were awarded for theme, presentation, texture and taste and our judges (Claire Johnston-Leyden, Councilor Vincent Earp and Willie Boonzaier) had a tough task to choose a winner. The winning team, 'Bosveldklonkies', prepared a beef pot and also served homemade bread and 'moer koffie'. Second prize went to Ama Pot-Pot who boasted a sport theme and along with their meat potjie and freshly baked bread also prepared a vegetable potjie which was basically a stuffed pumpkin. Third prize was awarded to Crime Fighters for their curry pot. All the prizes were sponsored by local businesses and individuals.

The river clean up commenced at 11am and thanks to some enthusiastic residents along with their children lending a helping hand and the BECF cleaning team a section of the river was cleaned up in no time.

Children had a wonderful time on a jumping castle sponsored by one of our residents. Other activities for the kids included face painting and pony rides organized by the River Rangers.

The Midrand dog unit, that now also operates in the Sandton policing area, entertained us with an excellent display of discipline and also a simulated hijacking scenario. A female victim was hijacked of her vehicle and the dog unit pursued the hijacked vehicle, a shootout ensued between the highjackers and dog unit members. One of the hijackers attempted to flee and was shot. The other suspect was tackled by the patrol dog and both suspects were arrested.

On behalf of the Bryanston East Community Forum and Inspector Lee Ramdiyal, I would like to thank all our sponsors for their support:

- Bryanston Shopping Centre (Broll Properties)
- The Brazen Head Restaurant, Grosvenor Crossing
- Sandton Butchery
- Madison Foods
- Riverside Liquors
- Tanz Cafe/Carlsberg
- Woolworths, Riverside
- Modena Designs
- Total Garage, Hobart Road
- Biddy's Jumping Castles

Once again the SAPS annual Potjiekos Competition was a huge success. A big thank you to all who attended.



The Potjiekos Competition Judges: Willie Boonzaier, Claire Johnston-Leyden, Earp and Vincent Earp



Residents participating in the river clean-up

SAPS Dog Unit hijacking scenario



OPEN DAY Bird Sanctuary

Sunday 5 October 2008
10am to 3pm
Hans Crescent, Bryanston

Pack a picnic basket and join us for a walk and a picnic in the bird sanctuary.

For more information, please contact the BECF offices on 011 463 6066 or visit our website at www.becf.co.za

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)

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COIN Update

MOUNTED UNIT

The Protea Coin mounted unit was utilised in Bryanston last week to assist with crime prevention. The unit consisted of six equestrian riders.

The unit assisted by patrolling the riverbanks from Ballyclaire Drive through to College and Cambridge roads. A number of squatters were removed during this period.

We feel that the mounted unit was effective as there were fewer crimes reported for the week. Protea Coin will be utilizing the mounted unit more frequently in Bryanston to assist with crime prevention.

We would like to thank the River Rangers for the accomodation that they provided during this period.



Dumping garden and/or building waste

We have experienced some problems with residents dumping garden and/or building waste. In an effort to keep Bryanston tidy we appeal to all residents to keep their verges tidy and not to dump any garden or building waste in the park areas.

To follow is a summary of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality by-laws.

GARDEN WASTE

Storage, collection and disposal of garden waste

1. The owner or occupier of premises on which garden waste is generated **may compost garden waste** on the property, provided such composting does not cause a nuisance or health risk.
2. The occupier of the premises on which garden waste is generated and not composted must ensure that such **waste is collected and disposed within a reasonable time.**
3. Any person or licensee may remove garden waste and bulky waste, provided once such waste has been collected from the premises on which it was generated; it is **deposited at a garden waste handling facility** in accordance with the provisions of section 23.
4. At the **written request** of the occupier of premises, the **Council may deliver an approved receptacle** to the premises for the purpose of storing garden waste.

BUILDING WASTE

Generation of building waste

1. The owner or occupier of premises on which building waste is generated, must ensure that-
 - (a) until disposal, all building waste, together with the containers used for the storage, collection or disposal thereof, is **kept on the premises on which the waste was generated;**
 - (b) the premises on which the building waste is generated, **does not become unsightly or cause a nuisance** as a result of accumulated building waste; and
 - (c) pursuant to any instruction from the Council, any **structure necessary to contain the building waste is constructed.**

Storage of building waste

1. The council may determine conditions to **place a receptacle for the storage and removal of building waste on a verge.**
2. Every receptacle used for the storage and removal of building waste must-
 - (a) have clearly marked on it the name, address and telephone number of the person in control of that receptacle;
 - (b) be covered at all times other than when actually receiving, or being emptied of, waste so that no displacement of its contents can occur.

Collection and disposal of building waste

1. The owner or occupier of premises on which building waste is generated, must ensure that the waste is **disposed of by a licensee.**
2. All building waste must be disposed **at a waste disposal facility designated for that purpose** by the Council in terms of section 12, **unless the Council has given written consent for the building waste to be used for the purpose of land reclamation or for recycling.**

If you would like a copy of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan waste management by-laws, please contact the Bryanston East Community Form offices

Inspector Lee Ramdiyal advises: Safety at Home - prevent housebreaking and theft

- Know all relevant emergency numbers.
- Keep your cellphone in the bedroom
- Never leave keys in a gate or lock.
- Make provision for good outside lighting but remember that outside lights are on during the day draw the attention of thieves. Use lighting to your advantage. Lights that are on inside while it is dark outside put you at a disadvantage. Lights that are on outside when it is dark inside will allow you to observe what is going on without being seen.
- Know your neighbours and build a relationship of mutual trust and support. When going away on holiday inform them, or make arrangements for your house to be watched so that unusual activity will be noticed.
- Mail left in the gate is also a sign that nobody is home. Get a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property and to remove mail and newspapers.
- Never leave workmen unattended in your home.
- Conduct thorough background checks before employing anyone (permanent or casual)
- Be careful what is discussed in front of staff.
- Don't leave your garage, front or back door open or partially open - it serves as invitation to burglars.
- Never open the door automatically whenever the bell rings or if someone knocks. Make sure the person wanting to enter is expected. Unsuspecting domestic workers, garden staff and children are often approached by robbers pretending to be salesmen, telephone repairmen, electricians, plumbers, TV license or municipal inspectors as well as others.
- Robbers have on occasion been know to pose as police members. You can identify a police member in the following way: Members must carry an identification card stating the members name, rank, service number and photograph. If in uniform members will wear a name badge with the police star on the badge, as well as epaulettes indicating rank. Members in plain clothes and members in uniform may be requested to identify themselves.
- A watchdog is a good early warning system. Keep it visible as a deterrent but beyond the reach of strangers.
- If your house alarm goes off or you hear strange noises or your dog barks switch on the outside lights, and investigate with caution. Don't go outside before you are sure that it is safe. If you have a 'panic button', keep it close at hand and use it if you see anyone on your property that does not belong there.
- Install security gates at outside doors and keep them locked.
- When approaching your house entrance on foot or by car ensure that it is safe to enter and that you have not been followed. Be on the lookout for persons loitering near the entrance, vehicles stopping when you slow down or anything unusual at your home.
- Keep your entrance clear of plants or obstacles that can provide a hiding place for would-be robbers that could surprise you when you enter or leave.
- Always keep your keys safe to prevent them from being duplicated.
- Keep cash and valuables in banks or safes and store your firearms in a safe.

If you're house has been broke into:

- Contact your nearest police station immediately.
- Wait until fingerprints and statements are taken before touching anything.
- Look out for strange footprints in the garden and point them out to the police.
- A list of make, model and serial numbers of electrical appliance and other valuable equipment should always be available for investigation purposes.