



Bryanston East Community Forum

Section 21 company Reg No 2004/011551/08

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Bryanston East
Community Forum
April 2005

From your committee

Welcome to the second community news letter of 2005. We hope you all had a wonderful and crime-free Easter break.

As with our last news letter you will see some adverts on the back page which cover the costs of printing and distributing this newsletter. Rest assured, this news letter will not become another bunch of junk-mail and advertisements. It is intended to be a community news letter for the residents, so any community related articles or information would be welcome.

Status of the community forum

- Depending on how many people remember to make their monthly payments we are getting in about R12 000 / month at this stage, and have about R18 000 in the bank. (A more detailed financial summary is available on our web site www.becf.co.za).
- About 5% of the community are contributing on a regular basis.
- The community office is up and running well. Our SAPS sector manager Inspector Lee Ramdiyal is working out of the office as well.
- We have had a large amount of success in working with the municipality etc in sorting out community related issues (see Vonnie's hit list).

Where to from here?

As a community forum we are making slow but steady progress, but we are not really reducing crime in our area. We have spent the past few months speaking to similar community initiatives in other areas and we have come to the conclusion that there are a few key issues that we need to solve :

- The SAPS for the foreseeable future will simply not be able to reduce the crime in our area. They do not have enough resources and from what we can see, they will not have them for many years to come.
- Road closures work in reducing the level of crime in an area, but the statistics in our area show that they do not work as well as people would like to believe.

- The community cannot sit back passively and wait for the SAPS to solve the crime issues in our area. We as residents need to get involved and work together.

We have some examples of communities that are working together right on our doorstep. In Lonehill the Residents Association working with one security company have reduced the crime in the area by 92%. They have more than 75% of the residents buying their armed response and guards from the Residents Association and are able to really work with the security company to proactively reduce the crime in their area.

By comparison in Bryanston East we have over 20 security companies providing services, and at any onetime we have over 100 guards on duty in our area. None of them work together and realistically none of them are actually interested in reducing the level of crime in our area.

In the past two months we have approached all of the major security companies that operate in our area about working with us to set up an initiative like this. The response in general is that they are not interested—they know that right now they deal with the residents as individuals and that we as residents really have no control over them.

We estimate that as a community we spend R2 000 000 per month on security—and what do we get for it? Armed RESPONSE, not crime prevention. That means that the crime has already happened and that really is what we want to avoid.

The idea is actually very simple:

- The BECF signs a contract with one security company to provide any security services that we as a community require. This would be a typical outsource contract with rigorous performance criteria and penalties etc for non-performance.
- BECF / the security company then provides these services to the residents to replace all the different security companies who work in our area.
- BECF will manage this relationship and ensure that the security company is then answerable to the community, with regular management meetings and crime prevention objectives.

We hope that within the next month, we will be able to actively start selling this concept into the community.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Police reservists

We live in a country where our Police Service manpower is acutely lacking and where crime is rampant. The South African Police Reserve offers an excellent opportunity to make a difference in the fight against crime.

All police reservists are volunteers operating within the framework of the SAPS. They provide the community with not only law-enforcement but with care, understanding and emotional support.

What are the benefits of being a reservist?

- You will play a direct role in community policing in your area.
- You will learn to be more security aware and will obtain skills and experience which will stand you in good stead in caring for your loved ones.
- You will develop self-discipline and leadership skills.
- You will have the satisfaction of living in a safer community because of what you put into it.

You need to have a Std 10 qualification, be over 18 and preferably hold a valid drivers license.

Training is provided at Houghton College over a period of three months. It requires attendance twice a week in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the community office on 463-6066 or contact Inspector Lee Ramdiyil.

Crime situation in our area

The crime situation in our area has not improved at all. We are still experiencing about 40 to 50 crimes every month. This is equivalent to one per 50 houses every month.

This is based on the reported crimes. **We believe that only about 50% of the crimes are actually reported.** Please report any crime that you see even if its just to the community office—the SAPS resource allocation is based on the crime stats, and if ours are artificially low we only hurt ourselves.

The incidents are happening at all hours of the day. We have had car-jackings and housebreakings in the middle of the day.

Do not assume that crimes only happen at night.

The crimes are happening across the whole area, both inside and outside the road closures and cluster communities in our area.

We really cannot afford to say that “I have no problem—I live in a road closure or cluster”. You probably leave your road closure at least twice a day.

Vonnie’s successes

Over the past few months Vonnie has been making great progress in working with the municipality in sorting out issues around our area. She has had a lot of support from the various bodies such as City Parks and Johannesburg Roads Agency who react very well when the issue is actually pointed out to them.

Below is a list of some of Vonnie’s successes in this area :

1. The owners of two empty properties in River Road were served with summons to sort out their properties.
2. Pothole repairs in Farm Street, River Road and Wilton Ave.
3. Missing stop signs and street names all over the area.
4. Street light repairs in Bryanston Drive, George Street, College Avenue, Arlington Road and Devonshire Avenue.
5. Grass cutting all over the public areas especially the Braamfontein Spruit.
6. Picking up of rubbish by the municipality all along the river.
7. 14 illegal immigrants arrested and removed from a development in Devonshire Avenue.
8. Large amounts of building rubble all over the area in at least nine different places.
9. Blocked sewer lines repaired in Ebury Road, Chesterfield Road and down at the river.

We are once again appealing to residents—if you see something but do not have the time to waste getting it fixed, please just drop Vonnie a line either by email at Vonnie@becf.co.za or just telephone the community office on 463-6066.

Snippets

Our first version of the community web-site is up and running www.becf.co.za . Please have a look at it and if you have not sent us your details please sign-up and join the community. If you have already sent us your details we will log you on and send you a password etc. in due course.

The SAPS have seen a strong link between building activity and crime. If you have a building site in our street and would like the SAPS to visit it, please contact the community office. We are also establishing a good relationship with the building and health inspectors who will also happily check out the people living on the site.

We are hoping to hold our next river clean up during May—more details to follow.

If you see any blocked sewers or broken lights etc, please do not assume that someone else will report them. All you have to do is phone Vonnie on 463-6066—you do not have to deal with the Municipality.

BRYANSTON EAST COMMUNITY FORUM**REGISTRATION FORM**

Your Name: Mr./ Mrs./ Miss./ Dr. _____
(First Names) (Surname)

I.D. No.: _____

Physical Address: _____	Postal Address: _____	Do you live in a road closure? Yes/No
Suburb: _____	Suburb: _____	Name of closure: _____
Code: _____	Code: _____	
Tel (Home): _____	Tel (Work): _____	Are you linked to armed response Yes/No
Cell No. _____	E-Mail: _____	Name of company: _____

Preferred method of payment _____

DEBIT ORDER ADVICE IF REQUIRED

I/We, the undersigned, authorise **Bryanston East Community Forum** to deduct an amount of R _____ per month. I/We understand that all withdrawals shall be treated as if signed by me/us personally. I/We understand that this instruction can be cancelled by me/us by giving **Bryanston East Community Forum** 30 days written notice.

Bank: _____	Branch Code: _____	Branch Name: _____
Account No: _____	Account Holder: _____	Type of Account: _____
Amount per mth: R _____	Amount in words: _____	First Payment Date : _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____	

OUR BANKING DETAILS**Beneficiary Details: BRYANSTON EAST COMMUNITY FORUM**

Bank Name: Nedbank	Branch Name: Sandton	Account Type: Current
Account No: 1970842695	Branch No: 197005	

Please complete the above form and contact one of the following people to collect it from you, drop it into one of our boxes at **Riverside Spar** or Fax to **803 8201**

Russell Kleyn 083 325 0245

Gail Prior 083 3071232

Vonnie Cronje 083 3267943