



COMMUNITY NEWS

Newton Park Sector Crime Forum & Neighbourhood Watch

www.pe.co.za

NEWTON PARK • GLENHURD • ADCOCKVALE EXTENSION

AUGUST 2010

Sector Commander: Warrant Officer R. Dillon Tel: (041) 3638382
Assistant: Const. Nande 0824504535

Chairman: Basil Mclean
Vice-Chairman: Charlie Liston
Secretary: Lyn Marsh

Treasurer: Lynne Crothall
Patrol Coordinator: Monty Brown

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 24 hr Rapid Response Officers
 Newton Park South (daytime) 8–6pm Emile Terblanche/Cliffie Leat (041) 3652119 / 082 788 0320
 (after hours) 6–6am 0835441344
 Newton Park North Monty Brown/Charlie Liston (all hours) 0833638888

Together we can make a difference

Criminals are back, more brazen and unpredictable. Don't follow the 'head in the sand' approach and think it will go away or never happen to you - (read what happened to two elderly ladies in Cecil Street on page 2). There can be no slacking in our combined efforts and resolve to take back our suburb from these thugs. We need young and old from all walks of life to get involved and capture the spirit of determination that will allow us to work together to defeat this scourge. To become a member of this forum is entirely voluntary and at no cost. The effectiveness of this initiative is dependent on the participation of all our residents. Please join us in making our Neighbourhood Watch work and our area safe. Speak to friends, neighbours and colleagues and convince them to sign up.

WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO TO PROTECT YOUR SUBURB? IT TAKES VERY LITTLE OF YOUR TIME – GET INVOLVED!

Namens al die patrollievennote van Newton Park, Glen Hurd en Adcockvale-uitbreiding wil ons 'n beroep doen op alle Afrikaanssprekende en ook ons Engelssprekende bure doen om betrokke te raak by 'n uiters belangrike gemeenskapsorganisasie. Dit is in ons almal se belang om deel te neem en die booswigte se aktiwiteite aan die kaak te stel.

George Bence

What legal liabilities are involved in becoming a member of the Neighbourhood Watch?

- No legal liability
- Totally voluntary
- Same powers as the normal citizen on the street
- Have the right to make citizen's arrest like any other person

What is expected from the Watch?

- ONLY observation
- Never patrol alone
- When making a citizen's arrest of a suspect, use only reasonable force
- Performing duties only in your own neighbourhood
- Duties can include patrols by vehicles, bicycle, foot, etc.

FREE TRAINING OFFERED BY ADT

WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER AND CRIME FREE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

**GET INVOLVED
 JOIN AS A PATROLLER**

PATROLLER TRAINING

- With the approval of the South African Police Service and the Executive of the Community Police Forum, ADT is offering a training programme for ALL crime forum patrollers FREE of charge!
- For your convenience these training lectures will be held on a Saturday morning:
- **Time: From 9:00 - 12:00**
- **Venue: ADT Training Centre, Ring Road, Greenacres**
- For more information contact Dave Moorhouse on 078 322

MONTHLY MEETING
3 AUGUST 2010 AT 18h30
PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE
ELIZABETH PLACE
(FRUIT & VEG PARKING AREA)
 •Alerts
 •General

July patrollers report

by Monty Brown

I was phoned after two children were robbed of cellphones at Alexander High School. While surveying the area I stopped five coloured males from robbing another learner in Burt Drive. Putting on my police vest saved me from being attacked.

Shawn, one of our patrollers, reported that he noticed eggs are being thrown at shops in 3rd and 4th Avenue.

Friday 16th: We held a Crime Awareness operation to mark Mandela Day. The various stakeholders for crime prevention distributed leaflets in the area.

Saturday 24th: While patrolling between 3rd and 4th Avenue on Saturday afternoon the restaurant 67 on 4th was very noisy and drunks hanging around.

Sunday 25th: During the night at approximately 2am my neighbour heard his dogs barking and found his jigsaw stolen off his front stoep the next morning. Case not reported.

Four schoolbags were stolen during assembly at Alexander High School. After one learner opened a case of theft the bag was found in the kitchen the next morning minus the valuables. W/O Dillon and Const. Nande patrolled the area and searched the bush for the other bags.

Wednesday 28th: W/O Dillon received a call from Cathy of a daycare centre in Willet Street to report a coloured intruder trying to gain entry to their premises. I accompanied him and searched the area with the help of Warrant Officers Rigby Mitchell and Wayne van Huysteen. We apprehended the suspect at 2nd Avenue and found a laptop, cellphone and pocket knife in his possession. He was taken into custody and found to have been in jail 36 times. Court action pending.

**"WE ARE THE EYES AND THE EARS OF THE POLICE"
Please report any suspicious persons or activities to the
neighbourhood watch and to 10111**

Crime in Cecil Street

I live in a cottage behind my son's house in Cecil Street Newton Park.

On Tuesday 29 June I was alone as the family were out. My granddaughter had parked my car in the garage at 9pm. At 10.15pm I had a call from the Mnt Road Police asking if I owned a Maroon Mazda, 'Oh yes" I replied and she said "go and look" if it is still there. My car was gone and so was my spare set of keys!

The police patrol van pulled my car over on seeing it being driven very very slow down Kempson Road. The driver could only managed first gear as he couldn't drive. He escaped but his passenger was caught as he could not open the passenger door!

By 10.30pm I had six policemen and women in my cottage. They were very efficient and caring and checked the home and garden and as I was on my own a patrol car drove past during the night. They also returned all the stolen articles that they found in the car, ie family photos, dirty washing, takkies and Woolworths shopping bags!!

On the Thursday we collected the very dirty, smelly car from the pound in Uitenhage. Fortunately there was no damage to the engine but the front bumper was damaged when they hit a wall.

I cannot thank the Mnt Road Police enough for having gone beyond the call of duty.

Keeping a watchdog is excellent for securing your property?

Dogs will bark loudly to alert owners of any noise disturbance, the arrival of visitors or an intruder's presence

DON'T IGNORE THEIR BARKING ALWAYS INVESTIGATE

ALL CRIME SHOULD BE REPORTED

The SAPS determine manpower and the necessary resources that need to be allocated to specific police stations, based on the crime that is reported in that specific area. At the end of the day, crime statistics will stay the same and the chance of arresting criminals becomes smaller if crimes aren't reported.

Elderly lady attacked and robbed

An 85-year old lady was about to enter her back door when it was forced open by two males. The suspects have a dark complexion and spoke Afrikaans fluently.

The lady sustained injuries to her face and also had a cloth around her neck which she was strangled with, with the marks still visible on her neck.

The lady was tied up and pushed into a little side room while her house was ransacked, the two suspects managed to get away with items like jewellery.

After a lengthy ordeal the lady managed to untie herself and call for help. The lady was treated on the scene by ambulance personnel and was taken away to hospital.

The chopper, dog unit, crime prevention and all relevant role-players attending to the crime scene. A witness seeing the suspects flee gave a description and the police patrolled the area around Mill Park and Linkside and entered the valley with the hope off finding these suspects.

Home Security TIPS FOR SENIORS

Unscrupulous fraudsters and petty criminals are increasingly preying on vulnerable senior citizens who are seen as "soft targets".

Here are some valuable hints and tips to bear in mind:

SENIOR SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME:

- Install and use good locks on doors and windows
- Don't hide keys under the doormat, in the mailbox or in a pot plant. If needed, leave a spare key with a family member or a trusted neighbour
- When service or delivery people come to the door, ask for identification and check with their company if you're still not 100% certain about their identity
- Make sure that the street number on your house is large, well-lit and unobstructed so that emergency personnel can find your home quickly when needed
- If you decide to install an alarm system, consider one that is monitored for burglary, fire and medical emergencies
- If you live in a retirement home, ensure you have communication with the guard at the main gate

Get to know your neighbour

The aim of this forum is to help people protect themselves and their properties, and to reduce the fear of crime by means of active, visible citizen patrols, improved home security tips, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents and crime, and by fostering a community spirit. All these efforts engender a caring community once again, and reduce the opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.

Contact crime is increasing and becoming more and more aggressive. We can do our part in helping to fight crime. By getting to know your neighbour and watching out for each other is getting involved. Encourage your neighbours, especially the elderly to ...

- be more vigilant and safety conscious in and outside their homes.
- have burglar bars and security gates fitted and to keep it locked at all times
- activating the house alarm even when leaving the house for only a few minutes
- keep pepper spray on their person especially when going outside the house, hanging washing or gardening etc. It is an immediate accessible defence from human and animal attacks. It is a legal way of guaranteed protection for you and your family.

**PLEASE TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR SUBURB!
DO NOT PUT YOUR BLACK BAGS OUT BEFORE COLLECTION DAY**

How to use Pepper Spray

Simply point the unit at the attacker's head and depress the actuator button.

A heavy stream of powerful protection will discharge from the actuator; up to a range of 10 feet (varies with wind conditions). To stop firing, release thumb pressure. A short blast of pepper spray will totally incapacitate one or more attackers for up to 30 minutes. One shot to the face causes instant panic and extreme discomfort. It is a practical and positive means of protection. Pepper spray contains a natural dyeing agent which will visibly mark an attacker for positive identification. Various sizes of pepper spray, the same type as used by our Response Officers, are available from ATLAS Security.

Anyone wanting to purchase this handy and effective defence accessory can call Je Taime on 041 401 2222 or e-mail pr@atlas24.co.za.

From Atlas Newsletter

Couple cable-tied during house robbery in Newton Park

A couple living in Shirley Street, Newton Park was tied up with cable ties when two criminals casually walked into their home and pointed firearms at them shortly before 19h00 on Wednesday last week.

Apparently the robbers, both armed with 9mm pistols, came into the house via the open back door and found the couple watching TV in the lounge and tied them up.

They covered them with a blanket and then moved through the rest of the house.

The robbers ransacked the house and managed to open the safe and made off with three firearms and three cell phones. The two men locked the couple inside the house and fled with their loot, throwing the house keys into the swimming pool as they exited the yard.

After struggling to loosen the cable ties, the couple managed to free themselves and ran to their neighbour's house across the road. The neighbours phoned ATLAS reporting the house robbery and the Armed Response Officers and police were despatched to the scene.

Although the shaken couple sustained no injuries, they were in a state of total shock. They opened a case with the police who will be investigating.

Thieves pull loot through window

A third Avenue, Newton Park business became another victim of burglary when opportunistic thieves simply pulled their loot through a window at 08h55 on Friday morning.

It is alleged that the suspects used a drum that they found in the yard to stand on in order to reach the window. They smashed the window and bent the burglar bars so that their loot could fit through the window.

The suspects made off with a Yamaha guitar and a computer that were both close to the window.

A case of burglary was opened with the police.

COUNCIL MATTERS

All municipal matters/issues/
concerns can be reported to Clr.

Chris Roberts

041 - 3732971 / 082 3048531

ward7@mandelametro.gov.za

Clr. Retief Odendaal 082 462 0668

rodendaal@mandelametro.gov.za

**PLEASE CONTINUE USING WATER
SPARINGLY & REPORT WATER
LEAKS**

Street lights not burning?

Please take down the number on the
pole and report all faulty street lights
to 041 374-4434

Contact crime has risen remarkably recently and ATLAS would like to remind residents to be vigilant of "distraction burglars/scammers".

We all know how important home security is and how important it is to make sure that you take all the necessary steps to protect your home and your family. Not all burglars break into homes - some will try to trick or con their way in. They are known as "distraction burglars" and will pretend to be on official business from respectable concerns such as the Utility Companies - Electricity and Water - or the Council. They may claim to be tradesmen or workmen calling to carry out urgent repairs. The trend is to surprise the domestic worker or resident and tie them up once they've opened the door, then clean out the premises without interference. Domestic workers should be informed not to open for anybody, unless prearranged with you.

"Distraction burglars" succeed because they sound believable, so please don't be fooled. Make sure in your own mind that they are who they claim to be by following these simple steps:

* Think before you open the door - use your chain and spy hole or look out of the window to see if you recognise them.

* Ask callers for proof of identity. Genuine tradesmen should carry an identification card with their photograph on it. Check this carefully. If you are unsure, telephone the company the caller claims to represent.

* Beware of callers who attempt to distract you by claiming that they need to alert you to something on your property that may encourage you to leave your house - they may have an accomplice waiting for this distraction.

* If you are not convinced of the identity of the caller, don't let them in. Ask the caller to come back later and arrange for a friend, relative, neighbour, ATLAS or the police to be with you when they return.

* Take care when disclosing personal data - it might be used by criminals.

Home Security

Even though a home alarm system is a great way to keep your home safe, you can never be too careful when it comes to home security.

Home Security & Burglary Prevention Tips

- Ensure that all valuables and important documents are photocopied, authenticated by a Commissioner of Oath and securely locked away. If you do not have a fire proof home safe, lodge these copies with your bank for safekeeping.

- Ensure that perimeter doors are fitted with adequate locks. The front door should have a safety chain or safety latch and, if the door has no vision panel, a door viewer. If keys to perimeter doors are mislaid, those locks should be replaced.

- Fit suitable "spacers", locks or bolts to all sliding doors to prevent them from being lifted off their tracks (the most common method used by burglars on sliding doors and windows).

- Ensure all windows are fitted with adequate locks or burglar bars that cover all glass.

- Ensure that all duplicate keys are locked away if not in use. Do not leave in doors or make unnecessary copies.

- Install a safe for weapons and valuables. Duplicate house keys could be kept in this safe. Wall safes are usually not fire proof and therefore not suitable for face-value documents and money.

- Keep the garage and tool shed locked when not in use. Would-be intruders should not have access to any item that can be used as a weapon or burglary tool.

- Install outside lights that can be remotely controlled from inside the house. Consider installing lighting outside which is activated by a motion detector.

- Try not to have high walls and tall hedges that obscure your view of the property. If walls and ledges are low, or have openings, neighbours and passers-by will more easily be able to spot suspicious or unusual activity.

- Reduce all heavy foliage near the garage entrance and front door to reduce the possibility of those spots being used as a hiding place.

Crime in the Newton Park Business Area

The considerable increase in crime affecting businesses in Newton Park is of major concern. Robberies are rife because communities do not stand together against crime. Although the Neighbourhood Watch regularly patrol your area and has been instrumental in preventing many crimes from being committed, more success can be achieved if we work collaboratively with each other.

Each one of us wants to live and work without fear of being robbed, raped or attacked. By joining and attending our monthly one hour community police forum meetings or merely supporting this initiative we can strengthen the human network against evil forces.

A small group of concerned residents, some pensioners and others who live and work in the area came together in 2006 to establish a community forum to address ways of eradicating crime and criminals from our area in order to protect their properties and families. A short while later some of our members using their own resources, became part of the Neighbourhood Watch and carried out daily patrols from Glenhurd through

Newton Park to Adcockvale Extension.

It is believed the concept of the Neighbourhood Watch began in North America and in the late 1960's and is one of the BEST crime prevention methods in any neighbourhood.

With the introduction of our Neighbourhood Watch the dramatic reduction in crime has been quite evident with many successful stories as evidence.

However we are facing new challenges as robbers' *modus operandi* are becoming more violent by nature and the financial implications we are faced with as we adapt security measures to address the increase in crime in the business area.

A look at crime patterns

OPPORTUNISTS

The opportunistic criminal are quite often a vagrant, beggar or the suspicious character that we choose to ignore taking advantage of our own negligence.

Patrollers' comments: People should never lower their guard, be more vigilant in protecting their properties and securing their own safety. During patrols it's been noted that front & garage doors and gates have been left open and unattended which is an open invitation to this type of criminal.

THE PROFESSIONAL

The professional criminal spends time observing a property and/or obtaining inside information from workers before committing a crime. They are quite often violent and prefer to enter when the premises are occupied, when the alarm isn't activated and they can force the occupant to point out where the valuables are kept.

Comments: Robbers have different styles and you must adapt to the individual robber's style to stay alive. Do what they tell you to do.

Calling all business owners/managers

We need your support/donations/advice to sustain the Neighbourhood Watch.

Together we can make your business a safer place for your employees, security personnel and your clients

OUR BANKING DETAILS

NEWTON PARK SECTOR
POLICING FORUM
FNB 32 DAY CALL ACCOUNT
Account No.74219145072
BRANCH CODE: 261050

Send us your comments or suggestions
lynda.m@absamail.co.za

**'FIGHT THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME' -
REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR
TO 10111 AND TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Crime in brief

Mr Michael James Perks

67 Hudson Street, Newton Park

Attempted break in. Side window smashed.
No entry gained and no loss.

Coombe & Associates

7 Fourth Avenue, Newton Park

Break in. LHS window broken with a brick and b/bars kicked in. Entry gained. Took a computer tower.

Isilumko Staffing

49 Worracker Street, Newton Park

Break in. LHS window broken with a brick and b/bars kicked in. Entry gained. Took a computer tower.

Mr C.J Blom

13 A Shirley Street, Newton Park

House robbery.

KFC- Newton Park

340-342 Cape Road, Newton Park

Break in. Roller door forced open and entry gained. Client cannot see anything missing.

Conticare

43 King Edward Street, Newton Park

Break in. Front RHS window broken.
No entry gained and no loss.

System Service Group

29 Burt Drive, Newton Park

Attempted break in. As per the neighbour, suspects wearing balaclavas jumped over the wall. A/R checked the premises with the client and found that a bathroom window was broken. No entry gained and no loss.

Madan, Singh, Bester & Associates

29 Sixth Avenue, Newton Park

Break in. Front RHS window broken. The same window was smashed in a previous break in. Entry gained. Took the computer.

Prestige Cleaning Services

54 Worracker Street, Newton Park

Break in. Front LHS window broken. Entry gained. Client did not have keys, so he could not check what was missing.