

NEWS FROM THE BLOCK

Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch

JULY 2017

24 HOUR NUMBER - 078 813 1391



WHERE TO FROM HERE!



A Community based organisation such as Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch (OPSB) is, as the name implies, there for the community. When OPSB was established in 1989 the primary task was to be the “eyes and ears” of the police.

Over the years it has become necessary for OPSB to expand into other areas besides assisting the police. There are numerous reasons for this, but in a nutshell, the main reason for this is the total lack of Service Delivery by the powers that be. Corruption is rampant in our society and in order for OPSB to provide a service to the community the Committee have had to take measures to provide a service that the City of Johannesburg cannot or will not provide.



SOME EXAMPLES: OPSB has a contract with Netcare 911 to provide 24-hour emergency medical assistance. Three security companies are on board to assist in the fight against crime. OPSB has appointed a Trauma Councillor to assist victims of trauma. Direct links with key role players have been established because without them, OPSB would be floundering. OPSB has a 24-hour dedicated cell phone number to assist all Members. All this is necessary because we cannot rely on the authorities to assist.

Once a month the Committee meets to discuss issues that affect the community. The OPSB committee consists of 8 highly dedicated individuals, each with their own portfolio, who give up of their time, without remuneration, to assist the community. Then we have the most vital component of the Blockwatch, our Patrollers. These people patrol the streets of the precinct in an attempt to keep **YOU**, our members, safe from criminals, again without remuneration.



Sadly, the buy in from our Members is virtually non-existent. The question I ask is **WHY?**

One such example is PROJECT FIRE HYDRANT. Emergency Management Services in the City of Johannesburg have not maintained nor serviced the Fire Hydrants for years. If a major fire occurs a Fire Hydrant becomes a vital component to fight the fire. Without knowing where Fire Hydrants are located, the fire department must first go in search of a fire hydrant before they can even attempt to extinguish the fire. **DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST FIRE HYDRANT IS LOCATED?** What happens if it is your own private property that is going up in smoke?



OPSB have set about rectifying this problem and are in the process of identifying the Fire Hydrants. All members are aware of the project and have been invited to participate. Sadly, the response to date has been poor. This is a time-consuming matter and it cannot be left to a few individuals to resolve. We need assistance from you, our Members.



In all walks of life there are people less fortunate than us. Within our precinct we have a Children's Home which houses children who have been abused or abandoned by their parents. They are Members of OPSB. The home needs clothing, food, toys and anything else that may come in useful for the benefit of the children. The Committee decided to assist and an appeal was sent out to all Members to assist wherever possible. Again, the response was poor. Only one member responded.

As a Committee, every effort is made to keep Members informed. One such method is to have Public Meetings. To make the meetings more interesting every effort is made to have a guest speaker who can add value to our community. At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in April, our guest speaker was Cornelia Rudman from South Africa Search and Rescue. What was of more significance is that it was the AGM where new officials are supposedly elected to the Committee. Despite the fact that prompt notification was sent out to all the Members - not a single Member volunteered their services. **The Blockwatch needs your assistance.** You cannot rely on the same people to carry out the same duties all the time. New ideas are needed with fresh faces. Sadly, less than 20 people attended the AGM.

Again, I ask, why?



Perhaps the most important question your neighbours? It is a sad fact of life our own inner sanction, that we do us.



I ask myself; how well do you know that we have become so cocooned in not even know what goes on around

To conclude, this is an earnest request to all our Members to get involved. Let's not leave it to a few individuals to carry the flag. Let's participate and get involved. Who knows, perhaps one day your house will be on fire and there will be nobody to assist. Or even worse you may need assistance and none will be forthcoming.



BERNARD FARRELL - CHAIRPERSON

WHAT HAPPENED IN JUNE 2017

1st THURSDAY - FRERE - DOG POISONING = 3 Dogs from one house and 1 from the neighbour all poisoned.

1st THURSDAY - BICKEL - HOUSE BURGLARY = Gate was forced open and Wendy's house broken into in Church grounds.

1st THURSDAY - CUTTEN - ANIMAL WELFARE = Stray dog rescued and collected by FORA.

1st THURSDAY - DU TOIT - CITY POWER = In attempting to find a water leak, Johannesburg Water used a digger and snapped the electrical cable. Before it could be fixed all the water had to be drained. Once the cable was fixed - so call fixed- it burnt out in another section. Peterson, Helena and the complexes were without electricity for more than 24 hours.

1st THURSDAY - BICKEL - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Turned out to be a technician inspecting the cables at the MTN Cell Mast Tower as there had been an attempted theft of a battery earlier in the day.

4th SUNDAY - BICKEL - SUSPICIOUS PERSON = After Church Service when member wanted to lock up, a suspicious person was walking up and down the road. On investigation found nobody.

5th MONDAY - ANDRIES BRUYN - SUSPICIOUS PERSON = Apparent suspect that had broken into house few weeks earlier was spotted. Upon investigation found nobody.

7th WEDNESDAY - JULIANA - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Vehicle parked outside members property for long time. Passed him and turned around further down the road. Upon passing him again, he pulled off. Followed him into Melville then onto Ontdekkers.

8th THURSDAY - ANDRIES BRUYN - HOUSE ROBBERY = 2 Suspects forced their way into house of senior citizen. Her sister was thrown to the floor as she put up a fight, they were then both tied up. House was ransacked. Stole laptops, cell phones and even put on clothing from recently deceased husband. SAPS and Netcare on scene. Took sister to hospital. Trauma Councillor assisted.

9th FRIDAY - FRERE - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Non-member returned home to find 2 males sitting in their car taking photos of houses. No registration plates on vehicle. Patrolled but found nobody.

13th TUESDAY - JULIANA - SUSPICIOUS PERSON = Male with a bicycle was walking next to female who appeared to be distressed. Patrolled found nobody.

13th TUESDAY - ANDRIES BRUYN - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Drunk man knocking on members gate who was attacked few days before. He was found lying next door and could not even stand up.

Assistance was requested, when he eventually stood up, threw up all over the neighbours driveway. SAPS Sector vehicle removed the man.

14TH WEDNESDAY - CUTTEN - ANIMAL WELFARE = Dog trying to get into property. Member said was not theirs, but later informed Blockwatch it was. Bulk SMS sent out. Dog was returned by somebody who left it on pavement.

14TH WEDNESDAY - CUTTEN - MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY = One of the tenants destroying plants, damaged car. Blockwatch informed them Body Corporate must resolve matter.

15TH THURSDAY - ONTDEKKERS - VEHICLE ACCIDENT = Two vehicles collided at Louis intersection. No serious injuries.

16TH FRIDAY - FRERE - ANIMAL WELFARE = Dog got out of property where member was on holiday. Animal sitter advised. Secured gate where dog got out.

16TH FRIDAY - VERCUIEL - HOUSE BURGLARY = Member in secure complex returned home to find his unit broken into. CCTV cameras at entrance had been tampered with. SAPS involved. Could have been an inside job.

17TH SATURDAY - HELENA - VAGRANTS = Vagrants found staying under one of the trees. Difficult to see them from road. At nightfall they returned to their belongings under tree. They were chased away.

18TH SUNDAY - GEORGINIA - JOHANNESBURG WATER = Property in process of being sold but water leak was detected. Owner not available. Water was turned off at meter.

18TH SUNDAY - GEORGINIA - VAGRANTS = Vagrants now set up "home" on City Parks Property. Nobody was "home" but their equipment was left. Removed everything, have heard nothing further about them.

19TH MONDAY - BICKEL - FALSE ALARM = Alarm was going off, turned out to be smoke detector alarm from food that was left on stove.

20TH TUESDAY - ONTDEKKERS CENTRE - DISTURBANCE OF THE PEACE = Man carrying on with shoppers and vehicles. Dunmar assisted, man removed.

20TH TUESDAY - FRERE - DOG POISONING - Dogs stay in the house but when they were let out, only one returned. Other had been poisoned, was taken to vet and has survived.

22ND THURSDAY - FINCH - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = White Golf with 3 occupants in area. Patrolled but could not find them.

27TH TUESDAY - ANDRIES BRUYN - SUSPECTED HOUSE BURGLARY = Owner returned home to find main gate slightly open. Rest of premises in order.

28TH WEDNESDAY - BICKEL - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE = Wheels and radio stolen, paving using to rest the vehicle on. House across the road had car battery stolen and neighbour also had car battery and radio stolen. Tracker was activated but tracking company failed to notify the owner.

28TH WEDNESDAY - JULIANA - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE = Two tenants had batteries and car radios stolen. Appears suspects used tree to climb into complex.

29TH THURSDAY - MELVILLE/FINCH - VEHICLE ACCIDENT = Car failed to stop at stop sign and collided with another vehicle. No serious injuries.

29TH THURSDAY - RESERVOIR - SUSPICIOUS PERSONS = On returning home found 3 people sitting against their fence. Patrolled but found nobody.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN SOME WAY THIS MONTH!

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VISIBILITY – CRIMINALS PARADISE

In the early hours of the 28th June criminals struck Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch with a vengeance.

In the space of 4 hours = 3 properties and 1 Complex were hit.

The criminals targeted vehicles that were visible to the road. In the first incident reported, a Toyota Corolla had its four wheels removed, the car battery was stolen as was the radio.

Using paving bricks from a property in Bickel Street the criminals used the jack to lift the car and then rested the car on the bricks. The criminals were then able to remove all 4 wheels.

Shortly after that another call came in to say that a battery from a vehicle was stolen. This was also in Bickel Street directly opposite from where the first incident was reported. A few minutes later a call was received from a resident in Snipe Street to say that the vehicles car radio and battery were also stolen. Initial investigations suggested that the criminals could have been using the Rand Water property to gain access to the vehicles.

However, this perception changed when another call was received from a Complex in Juliana Street which reported that 2 vehicles had their car batteries stolen. One thing that we are sure of, is that there is a gang operating in the area and we need to be vigilant if we are to protect our properties. Another point of interest is that all vehicles involved were **visible to the road**. The vehicles were easy pickings for the criminals.

One fully understands that it is extremely difficult to hide everything that is visible to the road. However, one needs to take every precaution to protect one's property and to ensure that if a criminal is going to target your property it is going to be extremely difficult to steal whatever it is that they want.

Therefore, an earnest appeal is made to all our members to please ensure that all vehicles are parked in such a way that it is difficult for criminals to see or if they want to target a vehicle, it will be extremely difficult to steal. Ensure that the perimeter around your property is properly secured. If you have a garage for the vehicle - please park your vehicle in the garage. Never park a vehicle in the road. If you have a few friends over and there is no space to park all vehicles inside your property, have someone go out every so often to check on the vehicles.

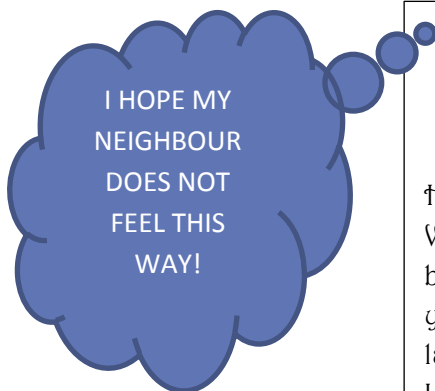
SNIPPETS FROM THE BLOCK



Condolences to the Meiring Family on the death of their daughter. Our thoughts are with you.

Irma Goetz, we hope your recovery will be fast and lasting.





HAVE A LAUGH!!.....

LETTER TO A BAD NEIGHBOUR

Hi Charlie
We've been neighbours for six tumultuous years. When you borrowed my lawnmower, you returned it in pieces. When I was sick, you blasted heavy metal music. And when your dog "decorated" my lawn, you laughed.
I could go on, but I'm not one to hold grudges. So I'm writing this letter to tell you that your house is on fire.
Cordially
Harry



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