

# NEWS FROM THE BLOCK

## Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch

### MAY 2017



24 HOUR NUMBER - 078 813 1391



#### A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE – ELVA BAISLEY

They say that it is never too late to fall in love, get married and to live happily ever after, regardless of age. Elva Baisley and Ralph Weyer tied the knot on the 18<sup>th</sup> February this year. Both Elva and Ralph were at school together and went their own separate ways once the formalities of education were completed. Some 60 years later and a chance phone call, led to the friendship being rekindled.

Meeting up again was not a simple matter as Ralph hails from East London. Hours were spent on the telephone talking about the good times. Elva took the plunge and flew down to East London to meet up with Ralph. After about 6 weeks down in East London Elva came back. Ralph followed shortly afterwards.



Both Elva and Ralph became inseparable and it was only a matter of time before Ralph proposed.

Following her marriage, Elva has decided to limit her involvement with the Blockwatch as she will be spending a lot of time in East London. Known as the doyen of the Blockwatch, Elva was asked to put some thoughts down in writing about Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch.

What prompted Elva to start a “Neighbourhood Watch” in 1989, was that the property across from where she lived in Finch Street was vacant land. Most of the time the grass was overgrown, pathways creating shortcuts to the Roodepoort station became ideal hiding places for criminals. Consequently, burglaries and even a rape took place on the vacant ground. It was also an excellent observation post for criminals to watch the comings and goings of

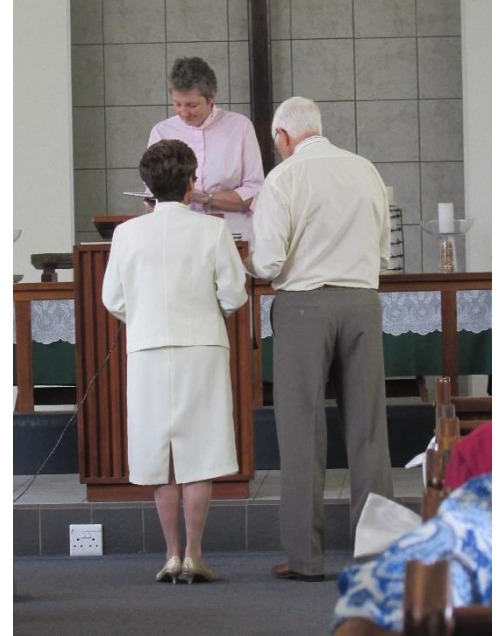
residents in and around the vacant ground. Today that vacant piece of ground is no more. The ground was eventually bought by the Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Summit Village was built.

After Elva experienced a burglary at her own house and having a purse taken from out of the entrance hall to her house, she decided something needed to be done. In those days, you could leave gates and doors open. Security was not an issue.

After another burglary took place at a home a few doors down from where Elva lived, she was spurred into action. Notices were typed out about the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch and together with son John, were delivered personally.

Initially Finch Street was to be the street concentrated on but other residents heard of this initiative and asked to be included. A portion of Juliana Street who had a system going amongst themselves asked to be included and from there the boundary was enlarged.

Thus, the Neighbourhood Watch was born. Those interested came together and the first meeting was held at the home of a Mr and Mrs Opperman on Ontdekkers Road. A committee was formed, subscriptions decided on, a logo chosen and boards made.



The committee met monthly and general meetings were held to inform residents. After a while, it was suggested that patrols be started. Once patrols started a decision was made to expand the Neighbourhood Watch and change it to a Blockwatch. A Randburg Blockwatch assisted Elva with the first logo and literature. Some may have seen this logo, it is a thief peering over a wall. It was after this that Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch adopted its own logo which is still used to this day.

Elva is quoted as saying, "I don't think I need to tell of the heights the Blockwatch has risen to as it speaks for itself. This is due to the dedication of the present Committee and what has been achieved. As is said from small beginnings, great things happen."

Elva believes that all the Neighbourhood Watches and Blockwatches in Roodepoort have grown out of Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch. Elva's parting shot to the committee; "May OPSB continue to go from strength to strength, and may the Committee continue to serve the community as they currently do."



THANKS, FROM ELVA:

RALPH AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE BLOCKWATCH COMMUNITY FOR THE MOST GENEROUS GIFT VOUCHER AND BEAUTIFUL CARD RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF OUR MARRIAGE.

I CAN ASSURE YOU IT WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE AND WHATEVER PURCHASED WILL BE A REMINDER OF THE ONTDEKKERS PARK SOUTH BLOCKWATCH WHICH I HAVE ENJOYED BEING A PART OF FOR MANY YEARS.

I ALSO THANK THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES FOR THEIR FRIENDSHIP OVER THE PAST YEARS.

MAY ONTDEKKERS PARK SOUTH BLOCKWATCH CONTINUE TO GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH IN THE YEARS TO COME, WHICH I KNOW WILL, UNDER BARNARD AND HIS VERY COMPETENT COMMITTEE

I WILL BE LIVING BOTH IN EAST LONDON AND GAUTENG, SO WHEN HERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE BLOCKWATCH.

GOD BLESS ALL

ELVA WEYER (BAISLEY).



### ***SNIPPETS FROM THE BLOCK***



***CONDOLENCES TO ROSEMARY JENKINS FROM GEORGINIA STREET ON THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND. THEY HAD JUST CELEBRATED THEIR 63<sup>RD</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.***



***SENDING QUICK RECOVERY WISHES TO TANYA DE WEERDT AFTER HER OPERATION. HOPE THE BOYS IN YOUR LIFE SPOILED YOU ROTTEN.***



***CONDOLENCES TO SUSANNA OLWAGE FROM ANDRIES BRUYN STREET ON THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND HERMANUS.***

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#### OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Blockwatch Post-box in front of Summit Village,

E-mail: [committee@blockwatchops.co.za](mailto:committee@blockwatchops.co.za)

Web page: [www.blockwatchops.co.za](http://www.blockwatchops.co.za)

Banking details: Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch,  
ABSA Bank, Florida branch, Savings Account: 9046621198

## WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL



2<sup>ND</sup> ANDRIES BRUYN - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Member returning home thought they were being followed. Assistance provided.

4<sup>TH</sup> BICKEL - GATE MOTOR THEFT = On leaving for work resident tried to open gate, discovered gate removed from rail and motor stolen.

4<sup>TH</sup> CUTTEN - VEHICLE ACCIDENT = Vehicle travelling up Bickel failed to stop at stop street and collided with vehicle. No serious injuries thank goodness as both members of Blockwatch.

**BE CAREFUL OUT THERE MEMBERS!!**

5<sup>TH</sup> PETERSON - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE = Argument between male and female, small child involved. Unfortunately, she was behind in her rent. Patroller spoke to owner of property and he agreed to allow woman to stay the night as child was cold. Blanket was provided by Member..... THANK YOU - A LITTLE HUMANITY GOES ALONG WAY.

8<sup>TH</sup> FINCH - ANIMAL WELFARE = 2 Suspects going door to door trying to sell a dog. Investigated but unable to find them.

12<sup>TH</sup> RAND WATER - SUSPICIOUS PERSON = Suspect was standing on top of Reservoir. Rand Water was contacted and they said they would send out security. Gate motor had been stolen during the week in one of the streets adjacent to Reservoir. As we do not have a key to enter this property it is always difficult for us to provide immediate assistance.

14<sup>TH</sup> ONTDEKKERS CENTRE - DISTURBANCE OF THE PEACE = 3 Men shouting and screaming at each other. Investigated and found three talking outside Sandwich Baron.

16<sup>TH</sup> BICKEL - INTRUDER IN YARD = Member was away but daughter at home and suspected somebody in yard. Investigated found that vehicle parked under canopy could have been tampered with.

16<sup>TH</sup> MELVILLE - INTRUDER IN YARD = Member noticed piece of palisade fencing was missing and garage door had been tampered with. Could be linked to the previous incident.



16<sup>TH</sup> SCHULTZ - HOUSE BURGLARY = Suspects lifted gate off rail and broke big window in lounge. TV stolen. Owner away, alarm was activated but nobody heard anything.

19<sup>TH</sup> BICKEL - SUSPICIOUS PERSON = Suspicious male walking up and down Bickel. Kept stopping at cell phone tower. Investigated but found nobody.

22<sup>ND</sup> FIONA - HOUSE BURGLARY = When new tenants started moving into property discovered window had been broken and burglar bar removed. All light fittings and the hob stolen. Owner then arrived and informed us that gate motor had been stolen earlier in the week.

23<sup>RD</sup> VERCUIEL - GATE MOTOR THEFT = Members son spotted activity at vacant property. Found gate motor stolen. Contacted owner who said somebody was staying on property until house had been sold. Investigated but found nobody staying there.

24<sup>TH</sup> ONTDEKKERS - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE = Silver BMW with 4 occupants outside premises with doors open. Member was accosted as she returned from Kentucky but took evasive action. Suspects drove off.

**Thank goodness, we had so few incidents this months, but still it is toooooo many.**

**Thank you to all who remain observant and aware of their surroundings and/or their neighbours.**



**DOES THAT INCLUDE YOU?** Do you know your neighbours car and routine so that you will know when something is just NOT RIGHT?

COMMUNITY IS A POWERFUL WORD.....WHEN A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER GREAT THINGS CAN HAPPEN. COMMUNITIES BECOME POWERFUL WHEN IT INCLUDES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. WHEN ALL MEMBERS PULL TOGETHER THAT POWER BECOMES UNLIMITED BUT PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL.



## IN AN EMERGENCY IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER MARKED CLEARLY?

**It might be easily visible during the day but is it clear enough at night?  
Valuable time can be wasted by looking for the number.**



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### **ASK YOURSELF:** *What are you doing about your Security?*

**Do you have an Alarm system** in place that is working and can you/ your kids operate it?

**Are all your** doors and windows secured?

**Are you a member** of the Neighbourhood Watch or CPF?

**Do you keep your** security gates locked at all times?

**Are you aware** of the surroundings prior to driving into your or out of your driveway?

**Do you discuss security measures** with those in your household?

**Have you made provision** for a fire emergency escape route?

**Have you a plan of action** in place for an **Emergency crime situation?**

**Do you have ALL EMERGENCY NUMBERS** at your fingertips?

**Do you know** your neighbours and have their cell or telephone numbers?

**Do you know** all the details of your employees?

**Do you know** who your children are friends with?

**Are you staying** abreast of matters security?

**Have you any firefighting equipment** in the house i.e. fire extinguisher?

Criminals are organized, even to the extent of committing a crime against you on the spur of the moment or opportunity.

**They will use your laxness as an opportunity.**

**Please make today the FIRST DAY of a new awareness, make the  
correct choices,  
TOMORROW MIGHT BE TOO LATE.**

**Tick the list and become more secure!**

With thanks to **APCAN** Security Group for above information.

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Bill and Suzy's second wedding anniversary is coming up. After much consideration Bill decides to order her a huge bouquet of flowers. He calls the local florist with strict instructions to deliver the biggest, most beautiful bouquet to his house first thing in the morning with a note reading "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – YEAR NUMBER TWO".

Next morning while making coffee, Bill hears the knock. He watches as his wife receives the flowers, opens the card and reads it. "WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?" she exclaims angrily holding up the card – "what do you mean – HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – YOU'RE NUMBER TWO?"