

NEWS FROM THE BLOCK

Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch

JANUARY 2017

24 HOUR NUMBER - 078 813 1391



NEWSLETTER NO 1

Although the Blockwatch has been in existence for 27 years, the first newsletter was launched 21 years ago. It's wonderful to see that some of the names of the then committee still live within our blockwatch borders and one still serves on the Committee. That's pure dedication!

We are pleased that we have progressed too full colour, have not missed a single edition of the newsletter and hope we provide an interesting read each month. We email this newsletter to over 600 email addresses and print a handful for the ones that do not have emails. If you have an email address and still receive a printed copy, please let us know. On reading Issue No 1 - CRIME CORNER – what has changed? We still have the occasional attempted theft of a vehicle due to parking it on the pavement, we still have tyres that are stolen and this is where we appeal to YOU our members – get involved. We have a proven track record that our patroller's visibility definitely helps in keeping the area as safe as possible. According to stats from our neighbouring Blockwatches, we have the least incidents and this is due to the constant patrolling.

SO HOW HAVE WE GROWN AND PROGRESSED OVER THE YEARS?

The radio system that the patrollers use, is linked in with all the neighbouring Blockwatches, thus when a call for help is given, you are guaranteed that help is at hand almost instantly. Our 24 hour cell phone number is functional = 24 hours a day. The Incident Officer has contact numbers for Emergency Vehicles, SAPS, Fire Engines, Netcare all on hand. Unfortunately, the municipal, emergency, or police infrastructure around us does not cater for speed in some instances. When time is of the essence, going through those channels can be frustrating, annoying, demoralizing and downright impossible, but over the years the Incident Officer has built up a list of reliable contacts.

We make use of the BULK SMS SYSTEM – which sends an sms to all our members at once. We have found this method works very well, especially when we have found a dog that has got out of a property or to advise about a crime trend. Please read and take note of these messages. They are a warning with a purpose, but do not respond to that number. The only contact number for the Blockwatch is the 24 hr number – 078-813-1391.

Our Committee is a group of dedicated people, who although most work full time, still serve the community with a smile. We have organised functions for our elderly, a Music Day which was a huge success. For the whole community we arranged a Fire Hydrant Day, where we asked for everybody's help in locating all the fire hydrants. Unfortunately, the municipality does not have a map of where they are located. We feel this is of vital importance, so last year identified them and from next month we will be breaking the area up into smaller blocks and inviting everybody from those blocks to join us on a Saturday morning for a few hours as we mark the fire hydrants. Stories are in the press of the problem with fire engines arriving with no water or running out of water very quickly. Let us be pro-active and never let this happen in our community. Therefore when we set the dates for this important project, PLEASE GET INVOLVED.

We have a general meeting three times a year where we invite guest speakers who deliver incredible information. Last year we had Elanie Kruger, who delivered her true life story of FROM CHILDHOOD TO PROSTITUTION, we had Prof Rudolf Zinn who has interviewed convicted criminals on their modus operandi, we had Andre Snyman from Eblockwatch.



Page 1

Our next meeting on 16th February will see Col Andre Laing give a presentation on illegal mining that happens right on our doorstep. We have a committee meeting once a month. Thank you to the Committee who are always up for this meeting amid a few laughs.

Are you on our facebook page – OPS BLOCKWATCH? Please join us, we share important information there and advise of what's happening in the area. Have you checked out our webpage – WWW.BLOCKWATCHOPS.CO.ZA. If you have anything to share on the page please contact us. Our email address is committee@blockwatchops.co.za.

Your monthly subscription has helped us keep this newsletter going, helped to get more radios, lights for patrollers, signs for the houses and patrollers cars. It helps to cover the blockwatch cell phone which serves you constantly.

So 21 years later, in this issue of the NEWSLETTER we sincerely hope that 2017 will be a fantastic year for you. Our wish and request is a simple one - PLEASE GET INVOLVED IN SOME WAY, PAY YOUR SUBS REGULARLY OR PATROL ONE HOUR A WEEK. We have many who walk daily for exercise but use this time to be the eyes and the ears of the blockwatch. The Annual General Meeting is coming up in April and we need new committee members. Offer your help. As we always say – NO MAN IS AN ISLAND – WE NEED **YOU** TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE, CRIME FREE AND A PLEASANT PLACE TO STAY.

WHAT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER 2016

- 2nd FINCH - HOUSE BURGLARY - Security gate forced open at front door, items stolen.
- 2nd JULIANA - THEFT FROM PROPERTY - Domestic saw male climbing over wall. Garden furniture stacked at gate but bicycle stolen as dogs on property. SAPS and APCAN assisted.
- 4th SCHULTZ - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - two suspicious vehicles driving up and down street at various times. When one vehicle approached, they drove off.
- 5th KLIPRAND - SUSPICIOUS PERSON - 2 suspects walking down road with ladder. Could not find them, but suspect they could be employees of nearby complex.
- 5th PETERSEN - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Vehicle parked outside complex, turned out to be contractor trying to get in to attend to repairs.
- 5th PETERSON - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Vehicle parked outside property. Went to investigate, vehicle then drove away.
- 6th FARRER - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - White van dropped of an old couch on pavement and left.
- 6th DU TOIT - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Vehicle parked under tree. Couple inside. Assistance given by Dunmar. Female walked to Helena Str where she lives.
- 6th ANDRIES BRUYN - SUSPICIOUS PERSON - Two suspects walking up and down road. Investigated but found nobody.
- 8th GEORGINIA - ANIMAL WELFARE - Neighbour saw dog outside property trying to get in. Owner was contacted. He came home. Not sure how dogs got out of property but all in order.
- 8th DU TOIT - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Vehicle parked under tree. Went to investigate but found nothing. Suspect it was a drug deal.
- 9th FINCH - THEFT FROM VEHICLE - At 3h00 suspect entered property and broke into vehicle. Owner heard and spotted suspect, shouted, he then fled. Radio was stolen and starter motor damaged. Dunmar and SAPS assisted.
- 9th BUHRMAN - ATTEMPTED THEFT OF GATE MOTOR - Gate dislodged and motor tampered with when son of property saw them. Bulk SMS sent out and Sec 3 advised as this car has been spotted numerous times in the Sector. Short while later car was spotted again but patroller failed to find vehicle.
- 10th KLIPRAND - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Vehicle driving up and down street numerous times. Eventually stopped at convenience store and then drove down Melville.
- 10th FIONA - VEHICLE ACCIDENT - Driver speeding and lost control of car and hit tree. Netcare 911, ER 24, Emergency Management Services and JMPD assisted. Jaws of Life had to be used to get driver and passenger out. Passengers taken to hospital, driver critical.

13th ONTDEKKERS - SUSPICIOUS PERSON - Male arrived at Business saying he was a sub-contractor and had to read the meter. No form of identification was found on him. Contacted his manager, they were still waiting for documentation from City Power. He agreed to leave area till he had correct identification.

14th GEORGINIA - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Old vehicle riding up and down street then parked outside complex. Was informed they were carpet cleaners working at one of the units.

16th FINCH - VAGRANT - Vagrant harassing household. Was asked to leave.

17th ONTDEKKERS - MISSING PERSON - After argument girlfriend got out of car while boyfriend was in shop. Left shoes and cell phone behind. Girl disappeared. Eventually girl was found in Roodepoort CBD. No further details available.

17th JULIANA - ANIMAL WELFARE - Monkey spotted in Rand Water. Trap set up with help from Born to be Free. Monkey still on the run.

19th DU TOIT - ANIMAL WELFARE - Very friendly border collie jumped into vehicle. Dog was taken to Florida Veterinary Hospital. Bulks Sms sent out and member responded. SO BULK SMS SYSTEM DOES WORK!!!!

20th ONTDEKKERS - LABOUR DISPUTE - Workers had barricaded entrance to business because of pay dispute. They would not interact with Blockwatch. Owner was then informed not a criminal matter but a labour matter.

20th ANDRIES BRUYNS - ATTEMPTED THEFT FROM PROPERTY - Owner suspected that two employees were trying to steal tools. Assistance called for. Suspects searched and one found with tools inside jacket. SAPS contacted but did not respond. Suspects dismissed.

21st HELENA - ANIMAL WELFARE - Dog walking up and down street all day. Neighbour said dog owner was on holiday. He was contacted and confirmed it was his dog. Brother would come and put dog back into property. THANK GOODNESS THE DOG STAYED NEAR HIS HOUSE AND DID NOT RUN AWAY.....

21st JULIANA - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Member spotted Golf parked outside property with 2 occupants. Dunmar called for assistance. Driver said they were from Randfontein waiting for their son.

23rd GEORGINIA - JOHANNESBURG WATER - Water pouring out of burst pipe at entrance to property. Reported to JHB Water. Eventually late in afternoon they came to fix pipe.

24th BICKEL - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - Couple sitting outside property for long time. Dunmar about to check them out when vehicle left.

24th JULIANA - ANIMAL WELFARE - Cat trapped on balcony of one of the units in complex. Lady scarred of cats so our incident officer came to the rescue - cat fled. Appeared that cat was trying to get the swallows that have made numerous stunning nests on balcony.

26th SNIPE - VAGRANT - He was given food and money but keep coming back. When he was ignored he started shouting. Was asked to leave which he did but continued shouting and screaming down the road.

31st ONTDEKKERS - MISSING PERSON - Just after 8 am elderly lady +- 80 years old was found walking in Ontdekkers Service Road with no shoes and in her pyjamas. She appeared disorientated. Eventually she remembered her name and where she lived. In the Tornado Blockwatch area. According to neighbours she hardly had visitors. She was taken to a retirement home and cared for until a permanent solution can be found.

***THANKS TO THE INCIDENT OFFICER FOR BEING EVER PATIENT WITH
EVERYBODY'S CALL OUTS – THANKS TO PATROLLERS FOR KEEPING UP WITH
YOUR PATROLS.***

CLASSIFIED SECTION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - PLEASE CONTACT US AT
COMMITTEE@BLOCKWATCHOPS.CO.ZA



HATCH

MATCH



DISPATCH

HATCHES – Have you had a baby, become a granny or an aunt –
let us know.....

MATCHES – Did you get married, hitched up, eloped – let us
know.....

DISPATCHES – Did somebody pass away, let us know.....

IN OTHER WORDS WE AS A COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE,
CONGRATULATE OR SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU.

Our condolences are with Sue Lourens from Finch Street on the death of her mother.

We so appreciate it when our efforts are noticed –
Some comments from our members:

Charlie: a good letter, interesting and good stuff.....impressed.

Maureen: I take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work you do for us all.

Amanda: I just wanted to thank you and the Committee for the valuable and sometimes thankless work that you do. The
Blockwatch has made a difference in the lives and circumstances of many residents in the area.

Elaine: PLEASE send me the contact details of the wonderful couple who took me to the vet to have JODY go to sleep as
she could not walk anymore I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to them for all they did that night.

One particularly sad call out was for a dog that was howling. A neighbour called in, Derek and his son responded.....
The reply from the vet.....

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On the evening of the 7th September, Ontdekkers Park South Block Watch, in the person of Derek de
Weerd, brought in a rescued Jack Russel dog into my clinic.

My veterinarian and I attended to the dog and found in severe pain due to internal injuries and
possible back injuries as well.

We decided that the best treatment at that point of time was to relief the animal from pain and it
was euthanased.

We thank Block Watch for their vigilance and compassion shown in bringing the dog in all the way to
our emergency clinic



Thank You Derek for your compassion – a car had hit this dog and the owners had simply dumped it in the backyard with
a broken back. Thank goodness we can say that they were not members of our Blockwatch and have since moved out of
the area.



Paddy says “Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador...”

“Blow that” says Mick. “Have you seen how many of their owners go blind?”

OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Blockwatch Post-box in front of Summit Village,

E-mail: committee@blockwatchops.co.za

Web page: www.blockwatchops.co.za

Banking details: Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch,

ABSA Bank, Florida branch, Savings Account: 9046621198