

March 2011

Focus on

Sunninghill

COMMUNITY

suncommunity@iafrica.com
www.sunninghillnews.co.za
011 234-3888

You are safer living in Sunninghill

Sunninghill Community Security is pleased to be able to inform all that our average housebreakings in Sunninghill per week over the past 7 months has remained stable at between 1 and 2 incidents per week. This compares very favourably to one year ago when we averaged around 4 – 5 per week and the year prior to that between 5 and 7 per week. Taking in account that there are over 5000 residential units/houses in Sunninghill, this is indeed an achievement. Violent crime has also come down and here we average on around 1 incident every two to three months. Some 3 years ago 70% of our crime was violent. Our most problematic areas remain theft out of motor vehicles (mostly at shopping centres) and smash and grabs (mostly on the cnr of Maxwell and Witkoppen followed by cnr of Nanyuki and Witkoppen). With regards to theft out of motor vehicles, we are pleased to be able to inform our residents that the Sunninghill Village Shopping centre management have joined our weekly security meetings and are working well with us and Savika Armed Response in trying to eradicate crime from their centre. You will all have noticed the efforts they have put into reducing crime, with access control booms, CCTV cameras and guards placed in strategic spots. We are notified immediately of any suspicious vehicles and this is passed onto Savika and the saps immediately. Their crime statistics speak for themselves with no crime having been reported there since the new security procedures were implemented. We congratulate this shopping centre on working with us and for caring about their customer's safety.

Every Monday Linda Gildenhuys and Savika Armed Response attends a South African Police meeting with various security companies. Recently Col Govender of the Sandton Saps mentioned that over the December period a number of cases of crime were committed in Sandton where security guards were thought to be involved. In order to assist the Security Companies in keeping their staff crime free, they offered free of charge to visit these security companies with their Morpho Touch Fingerprinting machine which informs them of previous criminal records in order to assist security companies with guards who have false papers and who have criminal records. Sunninghill Community Security is proud to inform all that our security company, Savika Armed Response is to date the only security company who has taken the Sandton Saps up on their offer. This proves to us their commitment to us their clients.

The above success has been achieved by having 5 pro-active Savika Armed Response patrol vehicles throughout Sunninghill, a mutually beneficial excellent working relationship with the Sandton Police and 34 live monitored CCTV cameras, which are monitored from within our suburb Sunninghill. This past week the Sandton Saps arrested suspects involved in two housebreakings in Sunninghill with the help of our CCTV footage. Thanks to Massmart's generosity an additional cluster of cameras will be installed on the corner of Maxwell Drive and Peltier Drive within the next two months. We are extremely happy about this location as it is one of the main escape routes criminals take out of our area. Not only would Sunninghill Community Security like thank our service providers and the Sandton Police for their hard work, but our wonderful residents and businesses too, who support us by being members of the Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association. Without your contributions and help, we would never have managed to achieve these low crime statistics. **A warning to the criminals in our midst.** You will get caught committing a crime in Sunninghill, we are a united community working together to keep our suburb safe!

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SPEEDING IN OUR AREA, a message from the Sunninghill Gardens Homeowners Association!

The Sunninghill Gardens Homeowners Association office has once again been receiving complaints from residents about the vehicles speeding in our area. These culprits are both visitors to our area and unfortunately our own residents.

We appeal to all too please follow the 40 kmph speedlimit. We have numerous children on bicycles, women pushing prams, joggers, residents taking pets for a walk and the Sunninghill Striders Running club using our roads at all times of the day.

Do you really want it on your conscience when you ruin someone's life due to inconsiderate behaviour? To our residents – should you see someone speeding or driving recklessly – please take down the number plate and make of vehicle and we will take action by reporting them and naming and shaming.



Our litter casuals relax and enjoy a meal – Thank you to **Plovers Realty** for paying their wages and **Sunninghill SuperSpar** for their food

Traffic Wardens

After a recent feedback meeting with our Sunninghill Community traffic wardens we felt the need to communicate with the motorists using our roads in Sunninghill.

The traffic wardens perform an exceptionally difficult job. Many of them have to leave home as early as 04h00 to be on duty in time for the peak hour traffic in the morning and only get home around 20h00 at night. They have been trained by the JHB Metro and have a system in directing and controlling traffic which allows just the right number of vehicles through an intersection to ensure the flow of traffic. When motorists do not obey them it causes the traffic to worsen with intersections being blocked which results in the lack of flow in both directions. Unfortunately on a daily basis the traffic wardens are

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confronted by motorists, who do not obey them or do not see them because they are chatting on their cell phones and then become abusive and threatening when the traffic is congested. Sunninghill Community has had to on more than one occasion obtain medical help for our wardens when motorists have intentionally ridden over their feet or bumped them.



We would like to appeal to all motorists using our roads to help our wardens, who do a wonderful job in assisting us in reaching our destinations in as little time as possible by practicing tolerance, patience, obeying their instructions and not chatting on your cell phones. In addition, instead of blaming them for traffic congestion which they are not responsible for, how about a smile, a wave and a thank you!!

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Rockmead Heritage Park

Rutherford Road Sunninghill Estates

The suburb of Sunninghill is located on what was originally known as the Rockmead Agricultural Holdings. During the development process, a group of residents petitioned the Council and the Developer to preserve a small rocky portion where important bushman artifacts had been discovered, and which contained several irreplaceable indigenous trees.



The petition was considered favourably, and the township layout amended to include Erf 655 comprising 2051 square metres, which was subsequently donated to the council by Amaprop.

ACTION PLANS

Erf 655 should not be left to degenerate, leaving itself again vulnerable to exploitation. It should be utilised for the purposes for which it was created, i.e. to provide an unspoilt natural habitat that can be enjoyed by the greater community by providing educational and recreational facilities.

In order for this to be achieved, certain critical activities need to be undertaken:

The erf needs to be cleared of all of the debris and invader vegetation that have accumulated over the years;

An appropriate professional landscape design must be prepared and implemented to maximise the potential benefits. It is envisaged that this will incorporate the construction of a suitably finished high wall along the Northern perimeter to address security and noise pollution issues. Pathways would take visitors through the reserve leading to a small boma, housing benches and educational displays. Some portions may benefit from supplementing the existing vegetation with additional indigenous plants. The area should offer unrestricted access along Rutherford Road, but be clearly identifiable as a Nature Reserve with suitable signage.

Ongoing basic maintenance on a regular basis will be required to ensure that the initial efforts are not again eroded over time.

The Speaker of the City of Johannesburg is arranging for palisade fencing to be put up around the park and signage to be erected.


Should you or your businesses be able to assist either financially, with labour or ideas please contact us on suncommunity@iafrica.com



Trees identified by D. Cretchley in June 1984 on site:-

- Celtis Africana – White Stinkwood
- Acacia Cafrā – Common Hookthorn
- Maytenus Heterophylla – Common Spikethorn
- Rhus Pyroides – Common Wild Currant
- Zizyphus Mucronata – Buffalo Thorn
- Rhus Leptodictya – Mountain Karree
- Dombeya Rotundifolia – Common Wild Pear
- Eclea Crispa – Blou Guarri
- Ehretia Rigida – Deurmekaarbos / Puzzle Bush

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Sunninghill Community Operation Manager.

Sunninghill Community would like to congratulate Jerry Tom on his recent promotion to Sunninghill Community Operations Manager.

Jerry joined Sunninghill Community in 2007 as a Traffic Warden and already in those days showed that he was destined for greater things. Never content to just direct traffic Jerry of his own accord became more and more involved in the day to day running of the area. Today, Jerry has become an invaluable employee of the Ratepayers Association and has played an important role in our many successes. As a result of this and the management skills he has shown in supervising our Traffic Wardens, gardeners and many casuals, the Sunninghill Community EXCO recently reached a unanimous decision to promote him to Operations Manager.

Well done Jerry, your commitment to your job and the Community of Sunninghill is greatly valued.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

SANDSPRUIT RIVER - 15th; 16th and 17th of March – Sunninghill Community will continue the Sandspuit River rehabilitation and clearing with City Parks. In order for us to continue with this important initiative we need donations from the Community to help pay for the 20 casual hired daily. Please contact Kerry at suncommunity@iafrica.com

St Peters school annual fun run will take place on Sunday 13th March from 07h00 to 11h00.

By the time you receive this newsletter Sunninghill Community would have started work on the **new Edison Crescent entrance to Sunninghill Estates**

We call on all businesses and residents in Sunninghill to join Sunninghill Community in making our vision of Sunninghill becoming the jewel of the north a reality. Contact Kerry on suncommunity@iafrica.com or Linda on security@suncomm.co.za and become a member of your Ratepayers Association. We need your help!!!