

What happened in 2009?

It has been a busy year for the CRA. As your representative "watchdog" there have been any number of issues that we've taken up on your behalf. Sometimes it's a long slow haul but cohesive action, patience and perseverance often works! Issues addressed include:

- **Ongoing monitoring of security and crime.** This includes liaison with the Police and with the major security companies in our area. Understanding crime trends allows us get resources deployed more effectively.
- **Running the Public Spaces Security scheme (PSS) with CSS Tactical.** Since the inception of the scheme in October 2008, crime – particularly violent crime – has significantly decreased in our suburbs. A fourth patrol vehicle is a priority – we are almost there but we need to be sure that we have a margin to meet the monthly commitment – all we can say is that for the protection of your family and your property, it's in your interests to join PSS. Contact Ryan, Tony or Amy.
- **Ward Councillor by-election in July:** since an effective Ward Councillor plays a significant role in resolving local issues, your committee went to a lot of time and trouble to meet and closely question the two candidates.
- **Town Planning and development:** few things can cause more stress than when an unwanted development occurs in your vicinity. While change will always be with us, if the CRA is alerted to a development where we agree there is a case, we will object to the development and advise you on steps that you should take. Not all objections are upheld by Council but generally, we have managed to prevent the worst excesses. Contact Roly or Bianca if you have any concerns.
- **Traffic and infrastructure:** like death and taxes, it would seem that potholes will always be with us... We have built up relationships with appropriate people in the Council and work hard to have our complaints heard. Remember – the procedure to follow – phone 011 375 5555 or (office hours) the Region B help line – 011 718 9600, ask for Eunice). Get a reference number and then email the info to Peter Heritage. For potholes etc, you can email hotline@jra.org.za.
- **Environment and Braamfontein Spruit:** this includes cleaning up areas of the suburb, including Jan Smuts Avenue, and ongoing prodding of Pik-it-up to empty the litter bins. Re the Spruit, the CRA has joined forces with other RAs to arrange crime sweeps along the river and we monitor grass cutting and the like. Contact Paulette Malcolm.
- **Business liaison:** the CRA has had a concerted drive to involve businesses in our area. Among incentives, we offer a community advert in our regular e-letter provided the membership fee for the year is paid. Contact Ralf Degni.
- **Community Affairs:** involved with arrangements for Domestic Watch, the AGM, the CRA table on the day of the by-elections and the REEA Fun Day in October. The first informal function for the CRA to meet residents by street took place for residents in Hamilton and Marlborough Avenues at the REEA boma. More such gatherings are planned. Contact Sue Harris.
- **Communications and Marketing:** this portfolio manages the CRA web site and the CRA data base. Regular informative newsletters are emailed to all in the area for whom we have an email address. If you're reading this and don't get the newsletter, contact Wendy McAllister.

BREAKING NEWS! Watch out for the upgrade at the corner of Buckingham and Jan Smuts Avenues. The CRA negotiated with Caxton community newspapers to fund this project - our thanks to them.

***Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress,
and working together is success.***
~ Henry Ford

The role we play

Your residents' association [RA] is made up of volunteers who live/work in and care about Craighall and Craighall Park. It does require some time and commitment but members of the CRA executive are rewarded when problems are resolved, all part of community upliftment which in turn plays a part in protecting property values – an active RA definitely adds value. Our focus is at street level with attention to detail that is not possible from local government.

An effective residents' association adds value to your property. Join the CRA.

www.cra.org.za

An essential component is support from residents and businesses in the area, particularly in the form of paying the annual membership fee. Not only is the financial support vital, but the greater our membership, the stronger our mandate and our voice.

Membership in 2010 is R250 for the year (R125 if you are a pensioner, R55 per sectional title unit or per complex of 10 units or more, R550.) ***It really is in your interests to join the CRA.***

Local government structures

The City of Johannesburg is divided into five regions and we fall under Region B. Each Region in turn is divided into Wards: we and some 12 other suburbs are in Ward 90 and our Ward Councillor is Gordon Mackay. If you'd like to be more involved in your community, you can join the CRA executive or the Ward Committee when a vacancy occurs.

Tip: report faults, pay bills etc online at www.joburg.org.za (e-services).

What else is on the agenda?

The answer is - plenty! The CRA has identified a number of areas which we have either begun to address - or would like to address, especially if we have a few more volunteers coming forward.

Of course, if you have other suggestions, these would be welcome.

Vacant properties

It's surprising how many there are - and what a problem they are, unkempt and often occupied by homeless people, creating a health hazard as usually there is no water or electricity. Between the CRA's security team, affected residents, an official from the City's Environment & Health Dept and CSS, we have managed to clean up some of the worst properties.



Do we really need property owners like this??

We are now seeking advice on what legal recourse is available to us. We've also raised the matter with our Ward Councillor - we thought an innovative solution could be for the Council to impose additional rates on such properties - and give a portion of the additional revenue to the CRA to fund suburb clean-ups... Maybe this is wishful thinking but it would be so encouraging to have some creative solutions considered and implemented by the City Council.

Let us know if you are aware of such properties and what response, if any, you've had from the owner/s.



The stream between Alexandra and Douglas Avenues feeds into the Braamfontein Spruit. It is under threat due to pollution from the Hyde Park area and homeless people who use it for their ablutions. What are your suggestions to improve the situation?

WWW.CRA.ORG.ZA

The CRAIGPARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

invites all ratepayers of Craighall/
Park to join us in protecting
their interests and having their say.

www.cra.org.za



The design of the CRA banner was donated by Michelle Curtis, daughter of Liz McConnell, the CRA's secretary

A cleaner suburb

There are a number of residents such as Anneliese Cianfanelli, Sue Harris, Liz McConnell and Gail Jelley who have taken a proactive stance and cleaned up an area of our suburbs – thank you! This really is a case of “Yes, we can!” Anyone who would like to join a team to do regular clean ups in the suburbs and the river should contact Paulette Malcolm or Sue Harris.



Chairman Ralf Degni decided that Jan Smuts Avenue was a disgrace and with assistance from Mark Millin (left), they collected three bakkie-loads of rubbish.

Billing problems and City Council data

Billing problems can occur when a property's street address differs with the City Council's records: this often happens with properties on corner stands. Even if your rates bill is sent to a PO box or received electronically, check the street address and contact Wendy McAllister if you see a discrepancy. This will also help us to improve the CRA records.

The CRA welcomes suggestions and feedback. Don't forget - we have our online feedback form [www.cra.org.za/index.cfm/p/pages.feedback.htm].

THE CRA CANNOT BE AS EFFECTIVE WITHOUT YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT

Husbanding our resources

Like it or not, we are faced with several major resource issues - waste management, electricity and water. Why don't we in CRA land blaze a trail to be a leader in making a contribution towards better resource management?

Waste management

The City Council has stated that it will not develop any more landfills. If you're not already recycling, now is the time to start. We will put a list of all current recycling points on the CRA website but we are working on reinstating a comprehensive recycling facility in our area.

Electricity

Higher electricity costs and shortages are upon us. The CRA had a phone call from Eskom's PR company wanting to arrange a public meeting to provide hints and guidelines for saving electricity. We indicated our interest but warned that many residents might wish to vent their spleen on the sorry state of affairs at Eskom - we haven't heard anything since! However, we did get some information and this is on our web site. Did you know that there are now 6 types of CFL bulbs available? Worth looking into as the information states: "South Africa has approximately nine million electricity consuming households, using an average of five light bulbs each. By simply changing the country's light bulbs, we can substantially improve electricity supply while saving the national economy billions of rands."

Water

Did you read a report in the Sunday Times Business Times (22/1109) by well known journalist Jim Jones, where he stated that the "poisonous consequences of gold mining" were toxic water in disused mines threatening to seep into Gauteng's water supply. If this happens, "The cost of clean water to Gauteng will make Eskom's tariff hikes look like small change."

If you have any information to add, hints or recycling tips, please contact Paulette Malcolm. We'll also share tips in our online newsletter.

Domestic Watch

We urge all residents and/or their employees to attend this highly rated programme - knowledge of security matters, first aid etc is useful - and empowering... Just an hour, once a month. The first 2010 meeting will be held on 29 January at 12:00, Wesleyan Church, Norfolk Avenue, CHP.

Have we got your email address?

Want to know about crime trends, get advice, hear about what's happening in our suburbs? If you don't get the CRA's regular newsletter, it means that we don't have your email address. If we had the email addresses AND CELLPHONE NUMBERS OF ALL RESIDENTS, we can do so much to keep you informed.

Contact us if you need help/have ideas!

Degni, Ralf (Chairman) 082 540 1135	Business liaison/signage/marketing ralfdegni@hotmail.com
Heritage, Peter (Vice-Chairman) 083 261 7576	Traffic & infrastructure peterlucy@absamail.co.za
Roseveare, Ryan 083 300 1370	Security team leader ryan@roseveare.com
du Toit, Glen 083 273 5250	Security glen@roxburgh.co.za
Webb, Tony 082 603 1759	Security /PSS new membership hootonarw@gmail.com
Allan, Amy 083 443 4690	Security - PSS sign-up/ admin tonto@global.co.za
King, Richard 083 401-5174	Security - PSS Richard.King@za.bp.com
McConnell, Liz 082 959 2952	Secretary / co-ordinator mwpatmac@iafrica.com
Meyer, Roly 011 442 6801	Town Planning rolymeyer@mweb.co.za
de Roland-Phillips, Bianca 083 390-7194	Town Planning brohleder@global.co.za
Malcolm, Paulette 082 452 9322	Environment / Civic matters malcolmj@global.co.za
Dewes, Sandra 082 330 0530	Civic matters / suburb regeneration sandals@worldonline.co.za
Hoffa, Karen 083 639 0992	Environment / special & eco projects karen.hoffa@wbs.co.za
Harris, Sue 082 659 1936	Community Affairs / Domestic Watch solosue@iburst.co.za
VACANT	Membership
McAllister, Wendy 011 325 7165	Communications/marketing/PR/web wendym@creativecoms.co.za
Rathey, Kendall 082 882 7110	Treasurer prathey@mweb.co.za
Gordon Mackay 083 255 7461	Ward Councillor/Advisory gordon.mackay81@gmail.com
Adam Bunkell (ex officio) 082 886 2579	Shopping Centres Forum adamtracy@mweb.co.za
Lynne Hannant (ex officio) 083 226 5228	CRA admin back-up hannant@icon.co.za

The CRA exec would welcome more members - the Membership portfolio is currently vacant and support is urgently needed for Environment and Community Affairs. Contact Chairman Ralf Degni.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the CRA this year. We wish you a safe and relaxing festive season and may 2010 be a landmark year for all of us.





CRAIGPARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Caring for our suburbs and protecting the interest of all ratepayers - residents and businesses - in Craighall and Craighall Park

WWW.CRA.ORG.ZA

P O BOX 41308
CRAIGHALL 2024

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION January to December 2010

Single Residential Property	R250.00
<i>Note: Pensioners over 60 may pay half the relevant amount</i>	
Business Premises	250.00
Sectional title (Flats/Townhouses)	55.00 per unit OR
Per complex (10 units and above)	550.00

Please either:

1. Complete the details below, attach it to your payment and post it to the above address, attention The Treasurer:

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

2. Alternatively, you may prefer to pay at a branch or try Internet debit into the following bank account:

Standard Bank: Hyde Park Branch
Branch Code: 008-805
Account No: 200 874 977 (Craigpark Residents' Association)

Kindly fax your deposit slip/transfer notice to 086 689 0610 and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Alternatively, if Internet banking is used, you may email the 'Transaction successful' details to the Treasurer at psutten@craweb.co.za along with the details asked for above.

If you have already paid your 2010 subs, thank you! To check your status, visit - www.cra.org.za/index.cfm?page=2010-subs-paid.htm

*** Some advantages of becoming a paid-up member ***

1. To ensure that the CRA remains an authentic and powerful representative body able to deal with a community problem, presented to and followed through with the correct authorities for speedy and positive attention.
2. To have access to a legitimate and impartial source to which you may voice your opinions on how you would like your suburb to be improved to meet your personal interests and needs.
3. No need to waste so much of your personal time and energy in complaining about things to the seemingly "correct" authorities with a single small "voice".
4. To receive the regular monthly electronic CRA Newsletters giving you the very latest on what is happening in your suburb. Many of these are security "shop presses" which provide you with "hot" security news and security advice.

As a resident or local business person you have a right to know what is going on in your suburb.

Have you joined the CRA's Public Space Security scheme with CSS Tactical?