

Report back

Infrastructure and Traffic

Mack Rogan has been kept busy! He has established contact with Mr Otto, the JRA manager for our Region, to try and expedite road repairs - noting that the JRA budget has been slashed by R millions.

To log a fault -

- Call 011 375 5555 or Region B office - 011 718 9600; *OR*
- Register for E-services and log a fault on line. [City Power has its own site - http://www.citypower.co.za/customer_log.html].
- Email Mack a copy of the fault report, with your reference number. Copy also our Ward Councillor's 'Lets fix it' address - letsfixit@gmail.com; *OR*
- Visit Sandton Customer Service Centre, cnr West & Rivonia roads (parking available in allocated area off Dudar Road) Monday - Friday 07:30- 16:00, and first and last Saturday every month. 08:00 - 11:30

Rates rage

If you're not receiving an account or it seems inaccurate, our advice is:

- pay an average based on previous bills but add 25% to your electricity average – Council has stated that there will be no cut offs if there is a shortfall
- read your meters each month and build up your own records in case of any dispute
- contact Wendy McAllister if the address and/or stand number is incorrect on your account; we have a contact at Council who will help sort this out
- contact the Regional Manager for Rates, Andrew Lassen for assistance: email andrewl@joburg.org.za, tel: 011 358 3305. There is also a good web site run by the Joburg Advocacy Group - see <http://jag-sa.blogspot.com>.

Town planning

As indicated, there have been many issues to deal with. Chief among these are:

14 Portland Ave - a very large 18-room structure is being built - but bears no relation to the approved plans. The owner, a Mr Abramovici, claims that it's for a 6-bed B&B (the maximum permitted without rezoning), although his architect stated that a 14-room "boutique hotel" is what they intend. We understand that rezoning is being applied for: objections have been lodged.

It's worrying that some City officials originally said all was in order but several months later, after constant queries by affected residents and the CRA's Roly Meyer and Bianca de Roland Phillips,

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

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



it is now acknowledged that the owner misled the City Council by claiming that his plans were for an extension to an existing house. In fact the house was demolished.

Lancaster Village, cnr Clarence Ave: a bottle store premises was added to the existing structure. Apart from the fact that well over 800 residents have indicated they see no need for another bottle store [there are 10 existing liquor outlets within a one km radius], the extension contravenes the land usage regulations for that stand. Parking, including no safe space for delivery trucks and inadequate pedestrian access, are further contraventions of the City's by-laws.

This is a particularly problematic issue as a liquor outlet in a relatively dense residential area which is also close to educational institutions and places of worship, does not constitute a desirable planning model.

CRA representatives attended a hearing at the Gauteng Liquor Board in August to decide whether or not a final licence should be granted (the bottle store is currently operating with a conditional licence granted by the North Gauteng High Court - before the premises were built – which remains in force until a decision is made by the GLB.) The hearing was adjourned on a technical point: we await a date for the resumption of the hearing.

The City Council is well aware of the building and by-law infringements and notice has been served on the owner to put matters right. However, we are STILL waiting for the Council to take effective action and so we will keep at it until we have some kind of resolution.

The good news!

A business for selling second-hand taxis - Taxi Max - set up shop in Rutland Avenue. For several months the CRA kept on at the City authorities and the owner, not only

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

because the stand was still zoned residential, but also because residents contended that this was not a suitable business in a residential area. The good news is that we understand the business is closing.

All residents - look about you. If you see a white notice displayed on a property, contact the CRA exec. If there is building starting in your vicinity, you're quite entitled to ask if eg plans have been passed. If something doesn't seem right - let us know.

Security and crime

Interesting, isn't it, that two years ago this would have been top of our list. While there are still crime incidents, intelligent patrolling by CSS Tactical, the CRA's preferred provider, has greatly reduced crime in our area. CSS uses an unmarked car, in addition to the 3 patrol vehicles.

In order to sustain this, it is vital that more residents **join the PSS [Public Space Security]** scheme. Using CSS for your armed response also allows more services to be offered. Contact Ryan or Glen.

Be extra vigilant over the festive season. If you live near a vacant property, report any suspicious activity to CSS - **0861 911 119**. Criminals hide in such properties and stash stolen goods, banking on the fact that we won't notice their presence.

Domestic Watch - all our employees should attend this highly rated programme, covering security matters, first aid, CPR etc... Just an hour, once a month, on the **last Friday of each month** at 12:00, Wesleyan Church, Norfolk Avenue, CHP.

Let's lead SA!

The CRA strives to connect with our community and make it a better place... and we need more person power to help us - eg environmental management, updating the CRA web site, town planning, community affairs...

A bit of your time WILL make a difference! Contact Ryan, Wendy or any member of the CRA exec.

Equally important is paying your subs - the CRA can only continue with its work with the support of its members. Please pay your 2011 subscriptions now. Thank you!

What's on in our community

Much goes on here! Some pointers...

- The Craighall River Market, Marlborough Ave, near Colourful Splendour nursery - second Saturday each month
- Craighall Tennis Club, St Albans Avenue. Call Mike at 083 228 1693
- The bookshop at REEA - weekdays from 09:30-13:00. [Proceeds to REEA Foundation residents.]

Contact Sue Harris or Louise Kelly (011 447 3117) if you have a community activity we should know about. (All paid up members are welcome to advertise in the CRA's monthly e-newsletter - contact Wendy.)

Your CRA executive

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***** Some initiatives *****

The CRA is a member of the Joint Residents' Associations

Eight Residents' Associations, representing some 90 000 voters, have met to work on common issues, starting with the procedures for the issuing of liquor licences.

A local clinic

Paulette Malcolm (in between representing the CRA at many *l o n g* public meetings), is close to finalising a clinic in our area - updates will be posted on the **CRA Face book** site (another initiative). Paulette was also a leading light in the successful Nichol/Jan Smuts traffic islands makeover.

Bottle top mural for Buckingham/Jan Smuts corner

We need bottle tops (especially black & green) so that Craighall Primary kids can finish the mural! Contact Sandra Dewes.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the CRA this year. This includes:

Peter Heritage, Ralf Degni, Amy Allan and Richard King, for their work on behalf of the CRA and/or the PSS scheme.

Nick Smythe, Hans Bergs, Brett Lewis and Cllr Sharon Sabbagh for professional advice.

The Wesleyan Church (Colin Wylie) for hosting Domestic Watch meetings. Spar, Impala Fruit & Veg and Pick n Pay, Craighall Park, for contributions to the Domestic Watch year-end function

Caxton, Colourful Splendour nursery, Desiree Markgraaff, Simon & Wendy Leppard and the Mayat family, for donations to the CRA

Last - but not least - the tireless CRA exec members and Councillor Gordon Mackay. (Contact him to be put on his Ward newsletter list.)

CRAIGPARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Caring for our suburbs and protecting the interests 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 2011

Single Residential Property	R350.00
<i>Note: Pensioners (normally over 65) may pay half the relevant amount</i>	
Business Premises	350.00
Sectional title (Flats/Townhouses)	70.00 per unit OR
Per complex (10 units and above)	700.00

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: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

Standard Bank: Hyde Park Branch
Branch Code: 006-605
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 pratney@mweb.co.za along with the details asked for above.

If you have already paid your 2011 subs, thank you! To check your status, visit - www.cra.org.za/index.cfm/p/pages.2009-subs-paid.htm (NOTE: 2011 payments will only start being reflected from January 2011).

What the CRA does for you includes...

- We negotiated, implemented and now administer and monitor the Public Spaces Security Scheme – PSS, leading to a significant drop in crime in our area.
- Meet and greet service by CSS Tactical / security solutions for individuals and the suburbs by the CRA Security Committee.
- We liaise with Parkview SAPS / Community Police Forum / Ward Councillor / Ward Committee / City officials / attend public interest meetings.
- Direct access to council departments for municipal problems (eg. Street lights / burst water pipes/ pot holes / rates accounts problems / incorrect street addresses etc.). We lobby for upgrading infrastructure.
- The CRA acts as a central communication unit between residents and deals with all issues affecting Craighall/Craighall Park residents (eg noise/unkempt pavements). We produce regular e-newsletters and alerts / 2-3 hard copy newsletters pa. Free advertising in e-newsletters.
- CRA Website - information tool – www.cra.org.za.
- We arrange periodic suburb clean ups.
- Central source for information eg crime stats / other useful information regarding the suburb.
- We closely monitor all developments in our area / object to undesirable changes / advise residents.