

CRAIGHALL



www.cra.org.za

AUGUST 2008

LOTS OF NEWS!

PUBLIC SPACES SECURITY SCHEME – PSS

The number of residents / businesses who have signed the debit order form for the Public Spaces Security scheme with CSS Tactical is steadily rising and we have reached the stage where the new scheme will be launched on 1 October 2008.

We do, however, need many more households to sign up to roll out the full scheme, including cameras throughout our suburbs – the combination of vehicles and cameras will afford us the best protection. If you see CSS vehicles starting to patrol our suburbs, and you haven't signed up, don't sit back and do nothing – this will be only the start.

“People tend not to think that their contribution will make a difference, but we've passed the point where we can hold government and the police accountable for crime. Unless communities pull together, there's little chance individual efforts against crime will succeed.” *Francois Marais*

We continue to get really favourable feedback from suburbs who have gone the pro-active CSS street protection route and are convinced that this is one security company that is effectively geared to meet the challenges of today's criminal activity. Sure, it's grudge money but it's better to be alive and have peace of mind - you can't put a price on that...

Crime statistics

It seems to be incredibly difficult to get stats which is why we appeal to all residents / businesses to use our online crime incident form (if you don't have internet access contact any exec member). www.cra.org.za/incident_advice.htm. A few recent incidents we know of include: armed robbery, Beaufort Ave (9/8); attempted robbery/shoot-out, Lindsay Saker, Jan Smuts/Abercorn Ave (9/8); follow-home from Hyde Park Centre driveway robbery, Alexandra Ave (6/7); 2 incidents (armed break-ins), Alexandra (12/13 July); attempted (armed) hijacking York Ave (June)... NOTE: trends indicate that at least one crime syndicate is targeting diamonds/jewellery. Be extra alert when returning home from shopping centres.

We have a sweetener for you... if you haven't yet done so, complete a debit order form before 10:00 on Saturday 16 August and you could be in line to win a year's subscription to the PSS scheme. A debit order form is enclosed. We also list households that have signed up - encourage your neighbours to join if you don't see them on the list.

Be at SPAR on 16 August by 10 am

The names of all who have signed a debit order form will be put in a hat - we plan for a well-known personality to draw the winning name out of the hat at 10:00 on Saturday 16 August at the Spar, Lancaster Ave, Craighall Park. There will be several further draws as we hit milestones so everyone

present who has signed up will have their name x 2 put in for the next draw. (Unfortunately, we can't extend this "carrot" to complexes, ie four or more units.) The River Rangers will be there and will offer children free pony rides.

Q & A

Q. What is the final cost of the new PSS scheme?

A. R385 pm per household; R85 per unit for sectional title; from R395 pm for business. All prices are VAT inclusive.

Q. I'm a member of the current ADT-driven scheme. What happens from 1 October?

A. The CRA controls the process and will cancel all debit orders after the September run. You will, however, need to complete a new debit order form for the CSS PSS scheme before 30 September. Note that you will receive a discount for the first two months of the new scheme, ie you will pay only R182 for October and November – our way of acknowledging your continued support.

Q. What if my armed response company is not CSS Tactical?

A. Your contract with an armed response company is for the protection of your own home and whichever company you use is up to you. The CRA/CID initiative with CSS is to protect our streets and public spaces. By keeping criminals at bay before they reach our homes/businesses we just have to be more secure.

Note too, that in the service level agreement the CRA is negotiating with CSS, there is a clause seeking an undertaking that there will be constructive collaboration with other armed response providers in the area.

City Improvement District [CID] news

The City Council is currently reassessing its policy in respect of residential CIDs. The CRA among others has submitted its views on the benefits of CIDs. We appreciated, too, that CRA resident Bobby Godsell added his support.

While there is going to be a delay, the CID Steering Committee has continued its investigations, particularly in response to the survey forms received thus far. What is interesting is that there is huge potential for reducing household costs that would offset much of the monthly CID contribution. Our findings to date include:

❑ **Household insurance:** according to a broker we have consulted, a CID which includes effective public space security could reduce premiums by 50% (with conditions). Average monthly premium = R435; CID premium = R250.

❑ **A Neotel network** (phone and internet): a Neotel consultant informs us that a significant group of subscribers in an area would allow them to offer a package of internet and phone calls that would be half the cost of Telkom. Neotel internet (wireless) 24/7 connectivity=R200 pm; Telkom R440 for ADSL.

Our area is not yet on their development schedule but if we have enough interest, Neotel will include us. Anyone who is interested should email Wendy McAllister.

❑ **Public Space Security:** with a CID, the cost reduces from R385 per household to R285.

❑ **Town gas:** to lay new gas pipes is very expensive and may not be feasible.

❑ **Traffic control** - speed humps. We obtained information from Saxonwold RA about the costs of their large speed

humps in Westwold Way. Some years ago the cost was about R10 000 per hump plus lots of Council paperwork. We're working on this and will report back.

Residents who haven't yet completed the **Survey form** are urged to do so, whether or not you are in favour of a CID. We need your feedback to make sure that our plans are inclusive (especially Hillcrest/Wendy Ave residents) The form is online (www.cra.org.za/cid_main.htm) or call Bianca, Sarah or Amy to get one - contact details overleaf.

Can you help?

Volunteers are needed for CRA projects plus this is an **urgent** appeal for assistance in particularly the Security portfolio.

1. **Calling all birders:** the 2nd SA Bird Atlas is running until early in 2009 its second Southern Africa Bird Project (<http://sabap2.adu.org.za/index.php>). Let's map the birds in our area – contact Chris Taylor or Karen Hoffa.
2. **Amenities in our area:** to list them, check their usage, standing etc, eg the bowling club, the River Rangers, tennis club. The info will go on to the CRA web site. A separate project is that of the Scout Hall in Craighall not used by the Scouts for 13 years: we'll report later on progress. Contact Paulette Malcolm.
3. **SAPS patrols:** Parkview SAPS needs our help to patrol our suburbs. Contact Philip or Vanessa Bond.
4. **Vacant houses/properties:** you'll look out for such properties, list them, evidence of possible criminal activity/vagrants, find out and contact the owner, establish what they intend to do with the property. Contact Richard King or Wendy McAllister.
5. **Business liaison:** to list the many businesses in the area, including Jan Smuts, see if any will offer discounts to CRA members and build up a relationship, including listing them on the CRA website (<http://www.cra.org.za/advert.htm>). Contact Paulette Malcolm.
6. **Liaison with churches and religious organisations:** to identify, see if they have special projects we can help publicise; do they have any amenities that can be used, eg a church hall, and find ways of working together. Contact Paulette Malcolm.
7. **Liaison with educational organisations/individuals** involved in education: list them, what can we as a community do to help. Do they have any amenities that we can use or eg bands/choirs available to perform? All the info will go on to the CRA web site. Contact Kirsty Falkenberg.
8. **Liaison with special groups**, eg REEA, Deansgate Home for the Aged, Sunshine Centre Association: how many, what are their needs? Contact Paulette Malcolm or Blyth Thompson.
9. **Craighall Kids Club:** help start up a children's playground in the vicinity of Colourful Splendour nursery. Contact Paulette Malcolm.
10. Help with the **CRA website** – contact Wendy McAllister.
11. **** Help** with the **Security** and **Traffic** portfolios - contact Richard King or Peter Heritage (Traffic).
12. Help with **Domestic Watch** - an hour or so on the last Friday of each month, Wesleyan Church, Norfolk Ave.

Please pay your 2008 subs! We are trying to fit in so much this year that without your financial support, we will not be able to achieve as much as we would like. Thank you!

SNIPPETS

- We know about the potholes... JRA recently informed us that the asphalt plant has broken down – we'll keep trying to get something done (roll on a CID!)
- If you have an email address but don't get the CRA's regular e-newsletters just send Wendy McAllister a mail with your name and address in the subject line.
- The Police urge residents to report every incident however trivial it might appear to be, so that there are records at the station.
- The state of our pavements - yuk! Please will residents adhere to the bylaws which state that there must be pedestrian access. We now have no option but to report the worst offenders to JMPD so before you get a fine, why not tidy up your pavement now.
- Use the Joburg Call Centre – 011 375 5555 – 24 hours – to log complaints and make sure you get a reference number. Let our Ward Councillor Ian Ollis know if there has been no response after 10 days.
- River market – every second Saturday morning next to Colourful Splendour nursery. Next one: 23 August.

AND – please – we really need a Chairperson and secretary!

CRA Executive portfolios w.e.f August 2008

Heritage, Peter	Traffic	083 261 7576 peterlucy@absamail.co.za
King, Richard	Security	083 401 5174 richard.king@za.bp.com
Bond, Philip	Security	082 448 6267 philip.b@bondstationers.co
VACANT	Security	
Thompson, Blyth	Security	083 288 7288 computerbird@telkomsa.net
VACANT	Secretary / co-ordinator	
Meyer, Roly	Town Planning	442-6801 rolymeyer@mweb.co.za
de Roland-Phillips, Bianca	TP	083 390-7194 brokleder@global.co.za
Malcolm, Paulette	Civic matters/Environment	082 452 9322 malcolmj@global.co.za
Taylor, Chris	Environment	083 294 5845 chris@fr.co.za
Hoffa, Karen	Environment	083 639 0992 karen.hoffa@wbs.co.za
VACANT	Membership	
Falkenberg, Kirsty	Community Affairs	083 463 2360
McAllister, Wendy	Communications	011 325-7165 wendym@creativecoms.co.za
Rathey, Kendall	Treasurer	082 882-71100 pratthey@mweb.co.za
Ian Ollis	Ward Councillor/Advisory (F) 011 884-2691	011 881 6016 ianollis@lantic.net

Ex officio

Domestic Watch: Kerryn Lawson 082 452 7962

PSS scheme area managers: Craighall Park: Bianca (see above)

Craighall: Amy Allan (083 443 4690) or Sarah Chorley (083 389 5343)

See "Crier extra" for the list of all who have signed up for the new PSS scheme