

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - CRA AGM 2009

- \* Find out what's been happening in our area.
- \* Give us your views and feedback.
- \* Elect your new CRA executive / join this great team!
- \* Meet neighbours in the area/ join the CRA (only R220 per annum - subs forms will be available)

**Date:** Wednesday 13 May 2009

**Time:** 19:00 for 19:30

**Venue:** Craighall Primary School, Grosvenor Avenue, Craighall Park

Our guest speaker is Bruce Whitfield, CRA resident and award-winning financial journalist who can be heard on Radio 702 every weekday evening. Bruce will distill credit crunch business wisdom based on "lessons from the top – doing business in testing times."

CSS security will be present and we have also invited Sup Moodley from SAPS Parkview. Refreshments will be served.

Apologies: Liz McConnell - 082 959 2952, mwpatmac@iafrica.com

We look forward to seeing you - this is your opportunity to hear more about what's happening and ask questions, and to elect the 56th, we think it is, CRA executive. Pretty good going for a voluntary organisation!

### Brief report back

**W**e've had plenty of issues to keep us busy so far this year - the swimming pool by-laws proposal, the Rea Vaya transport system, possible changes to precinct planning - and more...

### Public Space Security - PSS with CSS

A report-back meeting was held recently. We continue to receive favourable feedback on CSS's performance and on their intelligent and pro-active approach. By way of example, a resident attacked in her home who was not a PSS subscriber nor an armed response customer comments that within two minutes of phoning the CSS number - 0861 911 119 - a patrol vehicle was there. After ascertaining that the resident was alright, the CSS patrol vehicle immediately went in search of the two suspects. The resident is now signing up for the PSS scheme.

We **urgently need the fourth vehicle** for Craighall Park, particularly for increased coverage along the Braamfontein Spruit area and for the CSS patrol vehicles to cover every street more frequently.

### Extra services

Services that CSS offer include SMS crime alerts to all subscribers and 'meet and greet'. They are about to introduce a Home 911 system whereby anyone's cell phone can also be a panic button - this service will be offered to PSS subscribers at a substantial discount.

In addition, CSS also provides undercover vehicles and officers. They work closely with SAPS and constantly monitor **crime trends**: these currently include -

***Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.***

*~ Helen Keller*

- removing driveway gates off the rails and/or forcing open pedestrian gates which do not have a double strike lock (if any resident would like technical advice on any security matter, they should call the CSS offices);
- attempted kidnapping - we have reports of a white panel van with no back windows stopping to ask a pedestrian for directions, when a third, unseen armed person gets out and drags the person into the van.
- hold-ups in the vicinity of the Spruit. Take extra care if walking there - even with your dogs.

### How to join the PSS scheme

The PSS scheme is working, given the reduction of crime in our area while other "unprotected" areas such as Blairgowrie are experiencing increased crime levels. For crime to be negligible, however, cameras are the solution.

We ask every resident who hasn't yet subscribed to please consider doing so. **To join**, either visit the CRA web site (www.cra.org.za: from the home page click on Public Spaces Security scheme and from there download the form which, after completion, can be faxed through to CSS); or contact Richard King (083 401 5174) or Amy Allan (083 443 4690) - or any member of the CRA exec - contact details are on the CRA web site.

A list of current subscribers is on the CRA web site. If your neighbours haven't yet joined, why not ask them to do so! Pensioners on a fixed income may apply for a special rate.

## What we can do

What is important is to work together. If you see ANYTHING suspicious, rather be safe than sorry and phone CSS immediately. Please ensure that anyone who works for you also gets this message and has the CSS number to hand and in their cell phone.

**Domestic Watch** has an important role to play. Anyone who lives or works in our suburbs is really encouraged to attend the DW meetings on the last Friday of each month at 12:00 in the Wesleyan Church, cnr Norfolk and Beaufort Aves, Craighall Park. The meetings both empower and provide practical information, ranging from basic First Aid procedures, to telephone procedures and self-protection.

Contact Paulette Malcolm (082 452 9322) or Sue Harris (082 659 1936) if you need more information.

Last, do use the CRA's online crime incident form: [www.cra.org.za/incident\\_advice.htm](http://www.cra.org.za/incident_advice.htm). Read our safety tips: [www.cra.org.za/security\\_menu.htm](http://www.cra.org.za/security_menu.htm).

## Town Planning

As sub-divisions continue to occur, there seems to be a recent spate of applications for new homes to be the equivalent of three storeys. The CRA is investigating this but we advise all residents that if you see a white notice outside a property indicating an application for removal of restrictions, immediately contact the advertiser and also alert the CRA's town planning portfolio - Bianca de Roland Phillips (083 390 7194) or Roly Meyer (011 442 6801).

If you want to object, you have only two weeks to do so from the date of the notice. The City will not accept late objections.

## The CRA executive/profiles

With the AGM coming up, we thought we'd give you information about current members who are available for re-election. **Every portfolio needs additional support**, however, and we hope that members of the CRA community will come forward to join the executive. If you are unable to attend the AGM but are interested, contact Acting chair Peter Heritage (083 261 7576). Due to work commitments, Richard King has indicated that it's unlikely that he'll be able to manage the Security portfolio, and Blyth Thompson has had to step down, so we have a particular need for support here.

### Civic Affairs/City Improvement District

**Paulette Malcolm** and John have lived in or near the area for over 40 years. A teacher by profession, Paulette devotes most of her spare time to environmental and community affairs. She also serves on the Ward 90 Committee. 082 452 9322

### Town planning

**Roly Meyer**, a well known General Practitioner in our area, is now retired. Originally living in Dunkeld West, Roly and Jill moved to Craighall when squeezed out by commercial development in North Road.

**Bianca de Roland Phillips**, among other activities, was an estate agent. Has lived in Craighall Park for six years with 5 children and 6 dogs!

**Security - VACANT**

### Membership

Sheay Harvey and her husband Scott are relatively recent arrivals to Craighall Park. Sheay, who is a research associate for Woodburn Mann, enjoys giving something back to the community. 083 305 7164

### Community Affairs

Sue Harris and Bob and their 3 golden retrievers have lived in Craighall Park since 2002. Sadly, Bob is now paralysed after being shot by an intruder. For nine years until recently, Sue had a printing company in Parktown North. She has just started a new business relating to security in the home.

### Traffic

Peter Heritage - a Craighall Park resident for 10 years, married to Lucy. Retired after 45 years mostly in the packaging industry, latterly MCG Industries. They have two married daughters, five grand children, all resident in Craighall Park and Craighall. 083 261 7576

### Communications

Wendy McAllister - with husband Humphrey - rebuilt a shack in Craighall Park 22 years ago. Formerly Director of Communications at Wits University, she now has own communications consultancy business.

### Environment

**Chris Taylor** - moved to Craighall 5 years ago with Gail. In the IT industry for over 40 years (latterly specialising in search engine development). Now semi-retired, builds boats. Passionate about the environment and the mighty "Limpopo spruit" at the bottom of his garden. 083 294 5845

**Karen Hoffa** and Mark have lived in Craighall Park since 2006. Karen is a consultant - somewhere between an IT geek and an accountant, currently working as the Finance Co-ordinator for BP/Castrol's World Cup Sponsorship Program. She's a committed environmentalist in between her day job. 083 639 0992

### Treasurer

Kendall Rattery works in the financial services industry. She has lived in Craighall Park since 1998, is married to Peter and has two daughters. 082 882 7110

### Secretary/co-ordinator

Liz McConnell and her now late husband moved to Craighall some 10 years ago from Bryanston. Liz retired from the legal profession (Conveyancing Para-Legal) last year. Keeping her company are three cats, two dogs and two tortoises (who have laid eggs in her herb garden).

Please contact any member of the CRA executive if you need information or help.

## Communication!

If you're not getting the CRA's regular monthly update and have an email address, please contact Wendy McAllister asap - [wendym@creativecoms.co.za](mailto:wendym@creativecoms.co.za), 011 325 7165.

## City Improvement District initiative

There have been delays as the City Council is amending its policy on residential CIDs (the CRA has submitted further recommendations). As soon as we have clarity we will inform you. We remain convinced that the formation of a CID would greatly enhance the quality of living in our suburbs because it allows for micro-management at a level that is not possible at local government level. [www.cra.org.za/index.cfm/p/pages/cid-information.htm](http://www.cra.org.za/index.cfm/p/pages/cid-information.htm)

**Join the CRA today - we have your interests at heart.**