



COMMUNITY NEWS

Newton Park Sector Crime Forum & Neighbourhood Watch www.pe.co.za

NEWTON PARK • GLENHURD • ADCOCKVALE EXTENSION

DECEMBER 2010

Sector Commander: Warrant Officer
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Assistant: Const. Nande 0824504535

Chairman: Basil Mclean
Vice-Chairman: Charlie Liston
Secretary: Lyn Marsh

Treasurer: Lynne Crothall
Patrol Coordinator: Monty Brown

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 24 hr Rapid Response Officers

Newton Park South (daytime) 8-6pm Emile Terblanche/Cliffie Leat (041) 3652119 / 082 788 0320
(after hours) 6-6am 0835441344

Newton Park North Monty Brown/Charlie Liston 073 017 5264

Be careful, prepared and aware - criminals are not on holiday

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We need to be more careful, prepared and aware as the roads and shops are busier than usual. Crime is on the increase and although the SAPS and all security officers and the neighbourhood watch will be working together to assure a safe environment for all of us, we are still responsible for our own safety and should remain vigilant at all times, irrespective of what security devices are in place. House robbers tend to take advantage of times or situations when residents lower their guard.

We can 'do something' about the high crime rate

REPORT REPORT REPORT

ALL incidences should be reported - even if it's only an attempted offence OR suspicious person or activity

This crime information is needed by the SAPS, security companies and sector crime forums to use proactively in monitoring and policing hot spots

LET'S DO IT!

Let's stand together and improve the safety in our neighbourhood



CRIME REPORT IN BRIEF

•SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TARGETED

An educational institution in 7th Ave, Newton Park was robbed of a undisclosed amount of money by a male and three females who entered the reception area pretending to be there on business. The suspects fled in a green Honda Civic.

•DRIVEWAY ROBBERY

A 4th Avenue, Newton Park homeowner was attacked at gunpoint while walking down his driveway towards his car when two suspects approached him. They held him at gunpoint and demanded him to hand over his valuables. He complied and they made off with his wallet, cell phone and laptop.

After the robbery, the owner pressed his panic button for an ATLAS vehicle to be dispatched. The Response Officers arrived within minutes and found the victim in a state of shock. All the necessary police personnel arrived to investigate the robbery.

The owner reported that one of the suspects was wearing a black jacket and the other wore a red shirt. The police dog unit and helicopter services searched the area and entered the nearby bushes but the search proved unsuccessful.

No arrests have yet been made and a case of armed robbery was opened with the police. Read safety tips from ATLAS on page 2.

•HANDBAG THEFT

Reports are streaming in of handbags being stolen at fundraising events - ladies, watch your bags - read on page 2 how to minimise the risk.

INFLUX OF VAGRANTS & SQUATTERS

There are about 40 vagrants living in Newton Park and no one wants to take responsibility for it. Shelters are taken down whenever reports are received just to be re-erected again. Please NO HAND OUTS TO BEGGARS ON THE STREETS AS IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO REMAIN IN THE AREA AND OFTEN TO TURN TO VIOLENCE AND OTHER CRIMES TO SURVIVE.

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Ladies and their handbags

(read full report in our previous newsletter)

1. Don't leave your bag unattended, especially when out shopping. It's easy just to leave it with a pile of coats or other people's bags – however this makes it easier for a thief to pretend to be looking for something. If shopping and trying on items, ask someone to hold your handbag for you, even if it's a shop assistant. Don't leave your bag in the shopping trolley when grocery shopping.
2. Use "Chelsea" clips that are often attached to the underside of tables. These make it more time consuming and obvious for someone to remove a bag. Try not to put your handbag over the back of a chair as this makes it easy for thieves when you lean forward. **Handbag clips are being sold at Dischem outlets.**
3. Ensure fastenings and zips are closed before stepping out of a shop. They're easily left open for pickpockets. Be aware of your surroundings.
4. Keep keys separately. One less thing to worry about if anything unfortunate happens.
5. All women are inclined to have their whole life in their bags. Take only what is necessary with you. If you know you are going out, why take all your credit and debit cards? Do you need your expensive camera? Take the bare minimum with you.

LIMIT THE RISK OF HOUSE ROBBERIES

- Curtains throughout the house should be drawn after nightfall to prevent robbers from observing residents' movements and valuables. It is important to note that the majority of the robbers gained entrance by first observing through the windows where the residents were in the house and then forcing apart the burglar bars of an open window furthest away from where the residents were busy.
- The doors of garages and garden sheds should be kept locked and their windows closed. All tools and gardening equipment and any other implements that could be used to break into the house, or used as weapons, must be kept locked away.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes and make sure you set your alarm.
- Pack your car in the garage away from prying eyes when packing to go away.
- Store your valuables that you leave behind in a safe, if you have one.
- When leaving home for an extended period, have a neighbour or family member watch your house and collect your newspapers and mail.
- Check that your alarm is working properly and notify your alarm company of the dates when you will be away and contact details of any person who will be looking after your home.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer, if possible.

Super roadblocks are on the way.

This festive season not only drivers but passengers too are to be checked. And not only the police but a host of other agencies are to man the roadblocks.

Tax dodgers, maintenance evaders, fugitives of any type or anyone transporting illegal and dangerous goods on South African roads, among others, should brace themselves for a hard time, national police commissioner General Bheki Cele has warned.

This was because "multi-disciplinary" roadblocks featuring "highly specialised groups" such as the South African Revenue Service (SARS), Home Affairs and Customs and Excise would be held countrywide from December 4.

Cele said in Parliament on Friday that in implementing new strategies to improve their service to the community, the police would join forces with nine departments, including SARS, Home Affairs and Customs and Excise in the rollout of a roadblock strategy.

Cele warned tax evaders, unlicensed drivers and anyone with anything to hide from Home Affairs or Customs to beware.

Although government officials would not be drawn into details of the plan, the Cape Times learned that it would be officially launched in Gauteng, early next month.

This was confirmed by national police spokesman Vish Naidoo on Tuesday.

The Cape Times has learned that even nature conservation officials would be in the roadblocks, watching out for people transporting endangered species.

Customs and Excise officials would be keeping an eye on illegal transportation of goods while the Home Affairs Department would tackle illegal immigrants and other dodgy travellers.

Reacting to the new strategy on Eye Witness News's website on Tuesday, Gareth Newham of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria said it was "unusual".

"The concept is not completely new that there is an increase in roadblocks for the month of December. What is of interest is to target tax dodgers and illegal immigrants," he said.

Newham said authorised people from the department would have to be at the roadblocks to do the checks but said he was not sure how they would implement the process.

"The passengers of the vehicle would be affected. If they do not have their ID documents, fingerprint identification will be used to identify the person and if there are any outstanding issues."

Whether it would be mandatory for the driver to have his fingerprints taken, was another one of Newham's questions.

He said a flag would be raised if the driver did not want to have their fingerprints checked.

Meanwhile, Transport MEC Robin Carlisle said on Tuesday that he was aware of the planned December roadblocks but had not yet seen the special operations plans.

Carlisle said Transport Minister Sbu Ndebele had in recent months spoken about drawing forces together to ensure the maximum use of roadblocks.

"We will be full partners in (the December roadblocks)," Carlisle said.

The involvement in roadblocks of highly specialised groups like SARS, which had emergency vehicles and officials with powers of arrest, would also help the province in its

targeting of people who caused road fatalities, he added.

Carlisle said with about 20 additional vehicles and about 50 law enforcement officials, having SARS in a roadblock was ideal.

He said the roadblocks would include the usual traffic checks for driver's licences, drunk driving, roadworthiness and overloading.

However, he cautioned: "We have to make sure we don't go over the top and create congestion at the roadblocks."

Traffic chief Kenny Africa told the Cape Times the roadblocks would be launched by the police in the Western Cape on December 5. - Cape Times

OPPORTUNISTS

The opportunistic criminal are quite often a vagrant, beggar or the suspicious character that we choose to ignore taking advantage of our own negligence.

Basic holiday safety tips from ATLAS

- Pull your vehicle into the garage when you pack your luggage. Doing this in full view of the street will alert everyone of your intended holiday.
- A week or two before leaving on vacation, phone ATLAS and notify the monitoring control centre of the dates that you will be away. Also ask the control centre to test your alarm system. By doing this early, you will be able to schedule a service call if something is wrong.
- Leave a key with a friend so that they can collect any mail left in the letterbox. Do NOT label the keys with your address or even your house number in case they fall into the wrong hands.
- Make sure that your prepaid telephone and electricity are topped up.
- Make sure that all your valuables are stored in a safe place. Put any jewelry in a home safe. Ensure you have serial numbers of your valuables.
- Cancel deliveries of newspapers, etc. discreetly. Do not announce your departure to a shop full of people. Rather tell only those who need to know.
- Even cutting the lawn before you go away can help make it look less obvious that the house is unoccupied.

Before you finally leave, lock all outside doors and windows and set your burglar alarm.

Thank you to all our loyal members who has kept this forum alive

