



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Newton Park Sector Crime Forum & Neighbourhood Watch [www.pe.co.za](http://www.pe.co.za)

### NEWTON PARK • GLENHURD • ADCOCKVALE EXTENSION

SEPTEMBER 2010

**Sector Commander: Warrant Officer**  
R. Dillon Tel: (041) 3638382  
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 (all hours) 0833638888

*Welcome to all our new members. There has been a positive response to our August newsletter with more residents signing up and becoming proactive in the community. Crime is a problem and it is up to all householders to join and help in making our neighbourhood safe. When householders become part of security initiatives, safety can be improved to the point that criminals avoid the entire area. This can only be achieved if residents participate actively in crime prevention initiatives in their neighbourhood. To join is entirely voluntary and at no cost.*

*With the high incidences of house break-ins, more residents are now making use of the neighbourhood watch which is stretching our resources to the limit.*

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

1. ... our patrollers are all volunteers from the community, using their own vehicles and resources to keep us safe in our homes?
2. ... our Watch Team is on call 24/7?
3. ... unlike other sectors we provide a FREE service to the community?
4. ... annual radio licences, monitoring fees must be paid and stationery and equipment bought - all essential to continue providing this service?
5. ... we have the use of an office but have no phone connection?

#### Your assistance is needed to help sustain and keep this forum running efficiently.

- Once off OR a monthly contribution (however small - receipt will be issued) - see banking details below;
- Business sponsorship to pay for i.e. petrol for patrollers, phone calls, printing of our newsletter, sending out e-mails;
- Place an advert in our monthly newsletter - R120 donation;
- Fundraising ideas.

Enquiries can be forwarded to [npscf@pe.co.za](mailto:npscf@pe.co.za) or to [lynda.m@absamail.co.za](mailto:lynda.m@absamail.co.za)

#### OUR BANKING DETAILS

NEWTON PARK SECTOR  
POLICING FORUM  
FNB 32 DAY CALL ACCOUNT  
Account No. 74219145072  
BRANCH CODE: 261050

#### CAR GUARDS

*It might not apply to our area, but it is worth passing on.*

We have also received information that Nigerians are 'employing' car guards, of all racial groups, to check vehicles, homes, businesses, etc., and report back. This is causing an increase in crime incidents. Please take note of all car guards and, if necessary, request identification."

#### ALL CRIME SHOULD BE REPORTED

The SAPS determine manpower and the necessary resources that need to be allocated to specific police stations, based on the crime that is reported in that specific area. At the end of the day, crime statistics will stay the same and the chance of arresting criminals becomes smaller if crimes aren't reported.

**PLEASE TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR SUBURB AND KEEP UNDESIRABLES OUT OF OUR AREA! DO NOT PUT YOUR BLACK BAGS OUT BEFORE COLLECTION DAY**

#### MONTHLY MEETING 7 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 18h30

ELIZABETH PLACE  
(FRUIT & VEG PARKING AREA)

- Alerts
- Traffic circles
- W/O Rigby Mitchell
- General

#### September patrollers report by Monty Brown

**Saturday 21 August at 1pm:** Scholar was robbed at a sports day gathering at Newton Park Swimming Baths, 2nd Avenue. Not reported.

**Saturday 25 August at 8am:** Break-in at 3rd Avenue Methodist Church - Case reported.

**Approximately 11.45pm on a Friday evening:** Chainsaw stolen at 31 Sargent Crescent. Suspect got key from domestic worker. Case reported.

**Saturday 21 August at 2pm:** Four ladies robbed at the swimming baths, 2nd Avenue. One culprit arrested, identified by the accused.

Bush in Burt Drive is still a problem. Myself and W/O Dillon and four residents searched the area and found a lot of clothing, broken TV's, radios and computers.

Break-ins/attempted break-ins in 2nd Avenue and Lucas Street. No details available.

#### From the Tuesday Team:

During the world cup soccer there was bit of 'go slow' from a patrolling aspect but the team picked up speed again and patrols are back to normal on a Tuesday.

We have noticed police vans patrolling the area while we were also on patrol and this is great to see, we will definitely make contact with them on our next patrol. Our patrols are normally quiet, only vagrants checking the black bags for food, they get reprimanded and we encourage them to move on. We also noticed some wildlife, a buck grazing on the side of the valley one late evening while on patrol

Other than the above we have nothing else to report. - Rean

**“WE ARE THE EYES AND THE EARS OF THE POLICE”  
Please report any suspicious persons or activities to the  
neighbourhood watch and to 10111**

## Planning a social function

Robberies from homes where social functions or parties are under way is increasing and homeowners should take preventative measures when they organise a social function.

There are a number of reasons why social functions are easy targets:

- The doors and windows of the house will usually be open, including the security gates.
- During such occasions, the guard dogs are often confined in an enclosure so that they will not bother the guests. Also, the noise from the entertainment makes it easy for intruders to gain access to the yard, while the alarm system, including the pre-warning system, will be switched off.
- Residents or neighbours will be unlikely at such times to pay attention to noises or security lights that are triggered by motion.
- For the robbers there is an additional benefit: they gain access to a wide range of motor vehicles, cell phones, jewelry and money via your guests.

**BEWARE  
Attacks at cemeteries  
BE EXTRA VIGILANT WHEN  
VISITING YOUR LOVED ONE'S  
GRAVE**

**Report to the manager's  
office on arrival and if possible  
never go on your own.**

**SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND  
NEIGHBOURS  
AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO  
SUPPORT THE CRIME FORUM  
MOVEMENT WHEREVER THEY  
RESIDE**

**Thanks for all the e-mails and  
phone calls received commenting on  
the contents in our newsletters**

## Crime prevention tips

### SAFETY IN YOUR VEHICLE

- Always lock the doors and keep the windows closed while in the car.
- Do not leave your vehicle unlocked, even if you think you will be away for only a minute
- Avoid stopping at remote places
- Only park your vehicle in well lit places
- If a stranger wants to talk to you while in your vehicle, do not open the window wide - ±5cm is enough to have a conversation
- If something seems suspicious, do not talk to a stranger. Rather be rude and drive away.
- Limit your trips at night or at least take someone along with you.
- If at all possible, vary the route you travel to work and back.
- If approached by a stranger while in your car, drive off if possible or press your hooter to attract attention.
- If strangers loiter near or at your driveway, rather drive past. If they loiter for a long time, report it to the neighbourhood watch, your security company or to your nearest police station.

**'FIGHT THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME' -  
REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR  
TO 10111 AND TO THE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

- Car hijackers may stage a minor accident so they can approach your car.
- If your car is bumped from behind and you do not feel comfortable with the individual/s involved, drive to the nearest police station for help.
- Do not reach for your purse or valuable. Leave everything behind if forced from the car. Your life is more valuable than your possessions.
- Do not resist, especially if the thief has a weapon.
- Give up your vehicle with no questions asked and move away.
- A lift club limits the risk of becoming a victim of crime.
- Do not give strangers a lift.
- A gear lock is an affordable and a very effective anti-theft device.
- If possible, put up a mirror against the front wall of your garage to see if someone

is following you into the garage.

- Do not open your garage doors before your gates are closed.
- If you leave your residence, inform your family/neighbours of your intended destination, time you expect to return and that route you will be driving.
- Ensure that tools such as axes, spades, picks, ladders etc that can be used in an attack, are locked away when you do not use them.
- Vary your daily routine.
- Get into the habit of not immediately falling asleep after switching off the lights remain awake for a while.
- You should not be visible in the bedroom from the outside when you are asleep.
- Always keep a torch nearby at night and when you use it, ensure that you do not give away your position.
- If you are unsure about the security status of your home after returning from work/a visit, eg your dogs do not come to the gate, do not enter your home.
- Contact your neighbour to assist you in securing your home.
- Identify relatively safe places of refuge, ie bathroom, toilet or storeroom.
- The fewer windows and doors these rooms have, the better.
- Involve employees as they are part of the family/team.
- Employees must be involved in maintaining security on an equal footing.
- Report suspicious behaviour and information to the neighbourhood watch and/or the SAPS.
- Clear the areas around the gates of bushes and other hiding places.
- Take photographs of all employees. It could be to your advantage to identify them, if required.
- Remunerate your employees when useful information is provided that contribute to the prevention of crime.
- Do not employ casual workers without a reference.
- Keep copies of all your employees Identity Documents.
- Ensure that you have a good relationship with your neighbours so that you will be in a good position to support and help each other in case of an emergency.

**Never leave your firearm in the motor vehicle's glove compartment (cubbyhole) or anywhere else in the vehicle when you park your vehicle (this is against the law).**

## From Atlas Newsletter

Brazen thieves smashed a window during a burglary at a business in Fifth Avenue, Newton Park, some time during the night on Tuesday last week.

The owner arrived at work just after 07h30 on Tuesday morning and made the frightening discovery that he had been burgled. He instantly phoned ATLAS for a response vehicle to meet him at the scene of the crime.

The Response Officer arrived, thoroughly inspected the building and found that the thugs had smashed a window in the front section of the building to gain entry. The burglars managed to make off with two valuable laptops.

*Note from ATLAS:*

*The windows and doors of your property are the most often-used entry points for burglaries, so do not leave them unprotected. Burglar bars or fixed grilles are a cost-effective way of protecting your property. Installed either internally or externally over windows or doors, they form a physical barrier that will deter most burglars.*

*Burglar bars are effectively a steel 'net' forming an obvious and visible physical barrier between the occupant on the inside and the intruder on the outside. The mere presence of a burglar bar is usually sufficient a deterrent on its own.*

*Unfortunately though, they have a reputation for being unsightly and for making premises look like a prison. This is quite unnecessary if the design is carefully chosen to blend in with the building. Most importantly, they have to be robust enough to withstand an attack and to do the job they are designed for.*

### **ADT August report**

#### **Vigilant passerby apprehends vagrant burglar in West Street, Newton Park**

A vagrant who smashed the window of a business in Newton Park on Thursday evening, August 12th, was caught by a vigilant passerby. The vagrant broke a side window to the premises and managed to get inside and tried to open the cash register, but found it to be empty. A passerby who saw what happened waited for the man at the window, apprehended him and contacted the owner of the store. Police were dispatched and the vagrant was handed over to them, who arrested the vagrant on a charge of burglary.

*Subscribe to ADT newsletter by sending an e-mail to [ec.news@adt.co.za](mailto:ec.news@adt.co.za)*

### **Observation techniques**

• **Do not be obvious while observing the robbers. Avoid eye contact.**

• **Focus on one person at a time.**

• **Gain an overall impression first:**

– **Height**

– **Build**

– **Weapon**

– **Clothing**

– **Special features - a limp, deformities, scars, birthmarks, etc.**

• **Then look at details:**

– **Facial features - round / sharp, eyes close set / wide apart, etc.**

• **Remember any names used by the robbers when talking to each other.**

• **Remember what they touch, where they walk, any cigarette butts discarded, body fluids deposited, etc.**

• **Vehicles**

**The same rules apply - overall impression first, then details:**

– **First look at make and model**

– **Colour**

– **Noticeable features**

– **Registration number**

### **Two criminals, pretending to be customers, robbed a Fifth Avenue, Newton Park business owner on Thursday at 17h26.**

The owner was alone in the shop when the two suspects walked in to buy airtime. They pretended to leave but closed the shop doors, hauled out a gun and pointed it at the owner.

They demanded him to open the till and hand over all the money. They then fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. After the incident unfolded, the traumatised owner pressed his panic button for ATLAS to respond.

The shop owner gave the police and ATLAS a description of the suspects and said that they fled in the direction of Shauderville. One of the suspects wore a red hoody top, dark sunglasses and a gold watch on his left wrist.

The police opened a case of armed robbery and will investigate

### **. Walmer resident attacked and robbed at Arlington tip**

A River Road, Walmer resident was brutally attacked and robbed by two suspects shortly after 16h00 on Sunday, while he was dropping off rubbish at the Arlington tip.

The victim and his gardener went to the tip to unload when the two robbers approached them. The man was on the telephone with his wife at the time and they grabbed his cell phone, assaulted him and tried to stab him with a screwdriver. His devastated wife, who was on the line, could hear the scuffle and that they were trying to stab her husband. She immediately phoned ATLAS to report the incident.

ATLAS Response Officers arrived and fortunately the victim had managed to ward off the suspects and sustained only minimal injuries. The thugs made off with just the victim's cell phone.

A case of theft and aggravated assault was opened with the police.

Madelein, the victim's wife, writes:

"Yesterday, Fraser together with our gardener went to the Arlington refuse tip. He had finished off loading when he realised that his keys were locked in the car. While he was on the phone to me he was attacked by a chap who tried to take his cell phone. When Fraser put up a struggle the guy pulled out a screwdriver and tried to stab him. I was on the phone the whole time and could hear the screaming and then I realised that the phone was in the attacker's possession and they were running away.

At this time I did not know how serious the attack was and whether or not Fraser was injured or not. I immediately phoned ATLAS who despatched their Armed Response units and an ambulance. Fortunately Fraser was just shaken and a little bruised.

I have to thank your staff for the professional way they handled the situation. If not for the cool and calm response from the lady at your Control Centre, I do not know what I would have done. Your Armed Response once again outdid themselves. They were on the scene within minutes and one of your guys remained with Fraser until I was able to get spare keys to him and then they escorted him away from Arlington.

### **Loot pulled through windows in Newton Park burglaries**

In two separate incidents, burglars pulled their loot through windows some time during Sunday night.

On Monday morning two Worraker Street, Newton Park business owners discovered that they had been burgled during the night.

Windows were broken at both businesses, one in the front of the building and one at the back.

It appears that no entry was gained into the buildings and that the loot was fished out with pieces of iron. One of the companies lost two computer monitors and a computer tower.

Cases of burglary were opened and the police are investigating.

*To receive ATLAS and ADT newsletters send an e-mail to [Atlas Security \[at\]atlassecurity@newsletters.onlineinnovations.com](mailto:AtlasSecurity[at]atlassecurity@newsletters.onlineinnovations.com)*

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO ACTIVATE YOUR ALARM EVEN WHEN GOING OUT ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE & PHONE TO HAVE YOUR ALARM CHECKED AT REGULAR INTERVALS**

### Access and key control

- Do not allow strangers on your premises or in your house without having properly identifying the person, especially a night.
- Implement proper key control measures.
- Identify keys by means of codes instead of indicating in writing on labels to which gate/door access can be gained.
- Keys to the safe must be kept on the person.
- Never hide any keys in traditional places, such as in pot plants or under doormats.
- Keys in the keyhole on the inside of the front or back door should be turned to avoid easy removal.
- Never allow strangers to handle keys or look at key numbers.
- Change locks when keys are lost.
- Insert barring devices in door locks.
- Remove keys from doors when leaving.

### Traffic Circles

Traffic circles, or roundabouts, were invented in the early 20th century and built in cities throughout Europe and the United States. Traffic signals started taking their place in the 1950s, and today's drivers are easily intimidated and confused when they encounter one. Learn to use them; they're making a comeback as traffic calming devices.

- Slow down as you approach the intersection. You're typically not required to stop.
- Wait for a gap and merge with the moving traffic into the outside lane.
- Yield to vehicles already in the circle.
- Turn left or right from the circle by following the inside lane around and then moving to the outside lane, following it to your exit.
- Continue driving straight ahead by approaching the circle on the outside lane and staying out of the circling lane.
- Watch for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Keep in mind that buses or large trucks need extra room to make turns and might take up more than one lane in a traffic circle.
- Obey all traffic signs and road markings.
- Signal your intent to other drivers when entering, going around and exiting the circle.

**MORE DETAILS ON TRAFFIC CIRCLES AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

### 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.**

**Irrespective of what security devices are in place, residents should remain vigilant at all times. House robbers tend to take advantage of times or situations when residents lower their guard, for example when entertaining guests.**

**All dogs bark. It might be to alert you to a visitor's arrival or an intruder. Always investigate the reason.**

**When you've purchased new appliances do not put the boxes out with your refuse - it is a dead give-away as to what is available for the criminals inside your home.**

**Before employing a new domestic worker or gardener - get a copy of their ID and have it checked by the police**

### Fingerprints necessary to make arrests

Theft out of vehicles is an ongoing problem throughout the Port Elizabeth. The SAPS are doing their utmost to prevent this from happening, but this is not possible without the assistance of the community. According to Mount Road SAPS Spokesperson, Captain Sandra Janse van Rensburg, it is of vital importance that victims of theft out of motor vehicles bring their vehicle to Mount Road Police Station for fingerprints, and in doing so assist the SAPS in identifying the suspects committing the crime. She says that it is impossible to make an arrest without fingerprints and if they have fingerprints on record they can also link them to other cases.

This type of crime is opportunistic and residents are requested to take valuables with them when leaving vehicles unattended. If lockable facilities are available, these should be utilised to ensure that the vehicle and property inside the vehicle are safe. Theft out of motor vehicle cases can be reported at any SAPS station, but fingerprinting can only be done at Mount Road SAPS. The fingerprinting experts are available at Mount Road Police Station from 8am to 4pm on Mondays to Fridays and from 8am to 12pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

### COUNCIL MATTERS

All municipal matters/issues/concerns can be reported to Clr. Chris Roberts  
 041 - 3732971 / 082 3048531  
 ward7@mandelametro.gov.za  
 Clr. Retief Odendaal 082 462 0668  
 rodendaal@mandelametro.gov.za

**PLEASE CONTINUE USING WATER SPARINGLY & REPORT WATER LEAKS**

**Street lights not burning?**  
 Please take down the number on the pole and report all faulty street lights to 041 374-4434

**PLEASE report ALL crime related issues to the Neighbourhood Watch or send an e-mail to lynda.m@absamail.co.za We need this information to measure crime and plan patrols.**

**WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER AND CRIME FREE COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

**GET INVOLVED JOIN AS A PATROLLER**