



NEWSLETTER 11

10 May 2008

Dear Resident

As escalating crime continues to violate the lives of people across South Africa, residents in many of Johannesburg's northern suburbs have discovered that the private security model alone is not enough to keep them safe.

Whilst boomed roads and security guards most definitely serve a purpose, experts agree that private security is far more effective when it operates alongside a system that safeguards the public, communal spaces of a given area. The CAP solution which utilises a mix of early identification, observation, intelligence-gathering, surveillance and mobile patrols is currently operational in seven areas of Johannesburg. Its track record certainly provides strong evidence of a significant decrease in criminal activity, especially since in some suburbs; crime has diminished by as much as 90%.

Victory Park CAP Chairman Jonathan Gimpel says; "The most notable difference between CAP and other existing security initiatives is that it is owned managed and run by the residents in the Victory Park Community."

"There are various components to our initiative," He says, "with the Tactical Vehicle being the most noticeable element, but by far the most powerful component is the central call centre, which enables each and every resident to call in and direct our dedicated Tactical team to investigate."

Essentially the concept of Community Active Protection is all about bringing together all the people living and working in an area and mobilising them to stand as one in an effort to combat crime. With over 1000 people in Victory Park, it certainly appears that the suburb has the concerted '*people power*' to keep it crime free.

A. CRIME STATISTICS

Theft from a vehicle - Zonda Avenue - 19th April 2008

Vehicle Theft in Millway avenue. - 22 April 2008.

Armed Robbery Sunnyside Garage Emmarentia - Saturday 26th April.

Hijacking Emmarentia - 29th April

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME, OR HEAR OF A CRIME - CALL CAP FIRST at 086 18 000 18

On enquiry a lot of residents have said that they have not yet called in to the Control Room....PLEASE!!! ANY TWO OR MORE MALES ON FOOT OR IN A VEHICLE,CALL IN TO THE CONTROL ROOM AT **086 18 000 18**,TELLING THE CONTROLLER THAT YOU ARE CALLING FROM **VICTORY PARK**,THE STREET AND CLOSEST INTERSECTION TO YOU THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO,MODEL, COLOUR AND NO OF OCCUPANTS, AND ANY IDENTIFYING FEATURES IE A CAP, OVERALL ETC.THE SAME APPLIES TO ANYONE SUSPICIOUS,AND ANY TWO OR MORE MALES ON FOOT, CALL IN WHERE,WHAT DIRECTION THEY ARE HEADING IN,AND A DESCRIPTION OF THEM,ASK THE CONTROLLER TO SEND THE VEHICLE IMMEDIATELY,BY ADHERING TO THIS SYSTEM,ALL UNWANTED ELEMENTS WILL KNOW THAT VICTORY PARK BELONGS TO ALL OF **US**.EDUCATE YOUR STAFF AND CHILDREN OF THE **086 18 000 18** NO.TELL THEM HOW TO CALL IN,REMEMBERING TO FIRST INFORM THE CONTROL ROOM THAT YOU ARE CALLING IN FROM **VICTORY PARK**.CALL FROM YOUR CAR, EVEN IF YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY OUT OF THE SUBURB,

As an added bonus, our CAP service provider has recently taken premises in Victory Park, which will certainly strengthen our aim of providing an immediate response to any crisis situation that may occur.

C. FUNDRAISING POSITION

Victory Park CAP has signed up approximately **125** debit orders, yielding just over **R 90.000** per month in contributions, the vehicle costs over R160 000 per month to run, we require at least another **95** debit orders to achieve sustainability. We have all seen the benefits of the scheme. In fact, most of us *dread the thought of a suburb without CAP!!*

The benefits that have been DELIVERED to date include:

- Lower levels of violent and other crime
- Lower levels of vagrancy
- Increased property values
- Heightened levels of community awareness
- Improved inter-community relations, and community/SAPS relations

These benefits offer real, tangible improvements to our lives. We need to make sure that VICTORY PARK CAP reaches a point where it is sustainable indefinitely. In order to do this, we need you to:

- ***Sign a debit order if you haven't - don't delay, it's up to you!***
- Get your neighbours to sign debit orders.
- Please supply your full details to your street captains

D. TESTIMONIAL: Ruth Lurie

Dear Jonathan, Michael and the rest of the VP CAP Committee,

On Friday, April 18th, I had a geyser installed in my roof. In the early hours of the next morning, the faint smell of smoke wafting through an air vent alerted me to the possibility that the new geyser may have sparked a fire. My son telephoned the Randburg Fire Department and we went out into the driveway to await their arrival.

Given the proximity of the fire station to Victory Park, and the fact that that it was 4 am with minimal traffic on the roads, it should have taken them less than 10 minutes to reach our house. However, this is South Africa, where civil service response happens in its own time, and not all emergency vehicles are fitted with GPS. After 15 minutes, and no sign of a fire truck, I flagged down the CAP vehicle. Within seconds the driver radioed the Central Control Room, which in turn contacted another fire station situated in the CBD. He then drove down to Rustenburg Road to await its arrival so he could escort it to our house. Thanks to CAP, the firemen from the Carlton Centre precinct arrived well before their counterparts from the Randburg station which is literally around the corner.

While the ineptitude of the plumber who installed the geyser hardly qualifies as a hijacking, armed home invasion, theft or any of the crimes we aiming to prevent, the intervention of CAP nevertheless highlights the essential difference between home security and Community Active Protection. We have day and night guards in the section of Pentrich Road where I live. However, in times of acute crisis, they do not have the infrastructure or the training to achieve the same results as the more sophisticated CAP personnel. Had it not been for the proactive assistance of CAP in locating and escorting the fire engine directly to my home, there is every chance that the fire may have spread beyond the bedroom section to the rest of the house. At the same time, I believe that the presence of the guards in our street is an essential deterrent which has kept Pentrich Road free of the incidences

of crime that have occurred in other parts of our suburb, so there is certainly a place as well as a need for both types of security to operate in any neighbourhood.

If the *swift and timely reaction* of CAP provides any measure of its security officers' capabilities in responding to criminal situations, I believe that the residents of Victory Park are in excellent hands.

Even though no security system is flawless, I definitely sleep better at night and salute your committee's tireless efforts in putting that reassuring, black tactical vehicle on our roads. Unfortunately, in every neighbourhood where communal security implementations require monthly financial contributions, you find defaulters, parasites with no social conscience about mooching off their fellow residents and discount seekers. With a bit of luck they are more of an exception rather than the norm in Victory Park. In a scenario of escalating violent crime, security comes at a price. But, at the same time, how does one estimate the cost of the personal, material and emotional safety of our family members, employees and ourselves?

To put a new slant on a catchphrase from Star Wars; - May the force be with all of you in your sterling endeavours to muster enough support from residents to keep CAP patrolling our neighbourhood.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Ruth Lurie

E. VP CAP ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

VP CAP is looking for a dynamic, people orientated, computer skilled person to assist VP CAP. 3 - 4 hours - 3 days a week. At this stage you will be working from home. If you are interested please contact Laretta Edeling (laretta@adoutpost.co.za) or Michael Block. (michaelblock@wbs.co.za)

F. CAP CENTRAL STATISTICS

During the period of March 2007 - March 2008 (12 months) the following statistics were compiled:

- 66% of incidents reported are follow home incidents.
- Majority crimes took place between 10h00 - 16h00.

G. PICNIC IN THE PARK

PICNIC IN THE PARK.

September month -Date to be announced.



H. DOMESTIC WATCH

Penny Steyn was a victim of crime when two people tried to strangle her on Heritage Day in October. Her motto is: "Lets get MAD and Make a Difference!" - Penny Steyn and Associates

*The committee will fund the **first** four lessons, Domestic and their employers can choose to continue afterwards by paying R20 a head per lesson. (32 lessons in Total) Penny suggested the last Friday of the month at 2pm.*

Minimum 40 and more people to proceed with the mini - introductory course.

If you are interested to enroll your domestic please send an e-mail to lauretta@adoutpost.co.za. We will inform you about the venue and dates.

Topics:

1. Know Your Neighbour - Our first lesson given in each new suburb - a critically important lesson and some extremely important messages come from this first presentation
2. Habits and Routines - this covers all aspects of security that the domestics need to implement
3. Who is Attacking You and What to Do - this covers what kind of tactics are used and methods of getting through to the properties.
4. Make a Commitment to Yourself - this is a controversial power packed presentation that will motivate the domestics to take full responsibility for becoming the security of the properties where they work and live.

I. SECURITY TIP OF THE WEEK

In your home:

Leave your contact details with staff & kids, rather have them disturb you than guessing who's "ok" to let in.

In your car:

Don't leave personal belongings, hand-bags, cell phones etc. lying on the seats of the vehicle or in vulnerable 'smash & grab' positions.

Test the range of your electric gate's remote, know where to press the remote so that you can drive straight into your driveway, and press to close immediately. VPCAP HAS NOTICED THAT LOTS OF THE RESIDENTS DRIVE UP TO THEIR GATES AND ONLY THEN PRESS THEIR REMOTE, EFFECTIVELY BOXING THEMSELVES IN. LETS ALL START PRACTISING BASIC DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOURAL PRACTICES.

- NOT USING CELLPHONES FOR 2 MINUTES BEFORE GETTING HOME
- BEING AWARE AT ALL TIMES
- SWITCHING THE RADIO OFF
- PRESSING REMOTE TIMEOUSLY TO ENTER DRIVEWAY
- PRESSING REMOTE IMMEDIATELY ONCE THROUGH GATE.
- ALWAYS LOOK IN YOUR REAR VIEW MIRROR
- DRIVE ROUND THE BLOCK IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED, AND

CONTACT THE CONTROL ROOM ON **086 18 000 18**

- VP CAP IS **OURS** PLEASE USE THE NO ALWAYS!!!

J. STREET LIGHTS.

VPCAP FACILITATED THE FIXING OF THE STREET-LIGHTS ON RUSTENBURG ROAD, AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER STREET LIGHTS IN THE AREA THAT WERE NOT FUNCTIONING.

K. ROUND THE BLOCK CAMPAIGN

Follow home crimes make up the major portion of crimes reported to the ICC, and the hardest for the CAP system to prevent. Over the past few weeks this number has increased dramatically in Johannesburg. Victims are sourced in a variety of public places. Historically, we are aware of syndicates which have followed people home from the airport, banks after drawing cash (while this has happened from a number of banks, **Standard Bank Orange Grove** and **Standard Bank Bramley** have been particularly badly hit), restaurants, shops and shopping centres. This type of crime is still prevalent in and around Johannesburg, and very difficult to prevent, as criminals are typically in our area for a short space of time. CAP has consulted with leading security experts to devise a plan to help the community protect themselves from followed home crime. After careful consideration of various factors, and drawing on their vast security knowledge, the suggestion to prevent this crime is simple: **Drive around the block, before driving into your home.** When returning home from any risk area, drive around the block - any block, even a small one - before driving into your driveway. This simple tactic will make it obvious whether the vehicle you see in your rear-view mirror is following you. It only takes about 30 seconds of your time, but could save your life!

A SIGN OF THE TIMES!

ALL PROUD PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GETTING THEIR SIGN SHORTLY



LOOKING FOR HELP!

- I am looking for a reliable person for housework and ironing 2 days a week in Victory Park. References are essential and must also at least be able to tolerate cats! Start beginning of June
 - Please contact Mickie on 888 4209 or 083 451 9176.

Dear Resident – Did you receive newsletter 11 via e-mail?
 Competition: E-mail your name to lauretta@adoutpost.co.za with the caption Newsletter 11.
 R 500 Pick 'n Pay Voucher up for grabs!!

Regards and stay safe,

Victory Park CAP Committee

VICTORY PARK CAP – FOR THE COMMUNITY ...BY THE COMMUNITY