

NEWSLETTER 15

15 July 2008

Dear Resident



A. CRIME STATISTICS

This week there were only **39 calls** to the control room.

We need to call in..... THE MORE CALLS...THE LESS CRIME!!

- A Home invasion took place in Andre Street on Friday 27 June at 12h30. The Domestic servant opened the gate for the perpetrators, who knew the name of the owner, as well as that of the domestic, to deliver parcels that WERE NOT ordered by the resident.
- There was a follow home on one of our residents on Wednesday 9th July 2008, that resulted in the resident being held up at gunpoint in her driveway in Zonda Avenue, and jewellery, mobile phone and car keys being stolen. The perpetrators were driving a brand new Audi A6, and used "silence of the lamb" masks. PLEASE IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED...DO NOT DRIVE HOME..DRIVE AROUND THE BLOCK..ANY BLOCK, IF YOU ARE STILL BEING FOLLOWED CALL VPCAP ON 086 18 000 18. Do not be fooled by fancy cars, be vigilant at all times please!! *Both the above incidents could have been avoided with proper basic defensive behaviour being practised!!*

RESIDENTS PLEASE ISSUE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR STAFF AND KIDS. **DO NOT OPEN THE GATE FOR ANYBODY UNLESS YOU HAVE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEM TO DO SO. LET THEM CALL YOU FIRST TO CONFIRM. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM PLEASE CALL THE INCIDENT CONTROL AND COMMAND CENTRE ON 086 18 000 18.**

CRIME UPDATE

This week saw an upsurge of opportunistic contact crime in Johannesburg. The VPCAP team have been hard at work, disrupting this criminal activity in our area. VPCAP has made changes to its operational and deployment plan following the trend of these crimes. We have increased patrols, and the patrol methodology. **But, we can not do it alone....** We need the community's help to fight the battle against crime: All the crimes were perpetrated by groups of two or three males who infiltrated our area for a short period of time, looking for targets.

- Be extra alert when in public spaces. Do not hang around in public places, especially not in a driveway. Ensure the gate to your house is always kept closed.
- Your driveway is the most vulnerable place for an attack to happen. Be extra alert when entering or leaving your premises.
- Do not stop your car on the side of the road for any reason.
- There has been a shift in the time frame when criminals operate. While previously, almost all contact crimes reported were during daylight hours, these crimes have been spread over morning, midday and evening times.
- Blockwatch plays an integral part in the safety of our area. Please do your utmost to fill your allocated shift time, and if you can't make it, find a replacement. If you have not yet volunteered for Blockwatch please volunteer by sending your contact details to mickiejacobs@tiscali.co.za
- Ensure your domestic workers and guards are familiar with the VPCAP number and have sufficient airtime to call in suspicious activity.
- And most importantly, call in any two or more males spotted in our area to 086 18 000 18. This can save your life!

BE OBSESSIVE ABOUT PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM "DOORBELL" CRIME

Below is an extract from an email received by the Senderwood Linksfield CAP team.

At around 11.20am this morning a man in blue overalls rang the bell of my house and asked my domestic for information about the people who live here saying that he was from Eskom. When she refused to give out the information he said that he would cut off the electricity. Please would you send out an email warning residents that this is happening.

Eskom said that this is not one of their employees. We would like to remind the community once again that criminals try ringing doorbells of residences posing as workmen or officials and trying to gain access to properties. They even ask for the owner by name, through checking names on letters in the post box.

- Train your domestic workers not to open the gate for anyone
- If people arrive who are not expected, take down their details and ask them to wait while you check it out (for example, if someone claims to be a policeman, ask him for his name and the name of the station he is from and contact the relevant station to confirm).
- When in doubt call the call centre on 086 18 000 18, and we will gladly either dispatch a vehicle to check them out, or verify information for you, be it with Eskom, SA Police, Telkom, or any other institution.

VPCAP needs more BLOCKWATCHERS!

An integral part of the VPCAP pro-active, anti-crime initiative is RESIDENT PARTICIPATION. This takes a variety of forms, the most important being calls to the ICC on 086 18 000 18 and the BlockWatch programme, which runs seven days a week between 18:00 and 20:00 each day. We are immensely grateful to all those residents who have volunteered for BlockWatch and whose participation in the programme has made a real and tangible contribution to the success of the pro-active, anti-crime initiative in the VP CAP area.

In addition to the benefit to the community at large through having additional counter-observers on the road to supply information to the ICC and from which the VPCAP vehicle can be deployed, each volunteer benefits as well, principally in the form of new skills and behaviours which they learn while on shift, and which can be put to excellent use in their everyday lives. These Defensive Behaviours assist each volunteer to detect, prevent or diminish criminal activity of which they are the potential victim. VPCAP needs your participation and support !

The Jury is in on your calls!

'More calls means less crime.' VP CAP firmly believes in this slogan and much of VP CAP's success in combating crime is due to your calls. A recent exercise done by the ICC on call statistics have just proven that this is true ! For the month of June 2008, calls made to the ICC from the combined CAP areas were down by 20% from April and May 2008.

During the month of June 2008, contact crimes reported to the ICC were up by a staggering 50% from April and May 2008.

Your safety is in your hands ! Keep the calls coming in !

B. DOMESTIC TRAINING COURSE

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

Herewith the details to enroll your domestic servant in the undermentioned courses at Linden or Craighall Park. (Unfortunately our response was not worth while for Penny to start with her training course in Victory Park.)

["Criminal's Crime Methods - Property Attacks"](#) to the suburbs that did not receive this lesson.

Suburb	Month	Date	Day	Time	Venue
Craighall Park <i>Criminal's Crime Methods</i>	July	25 th	Friday	12pm	Wesleyan Church

["Information - What and How to Report Crime Info Anonymously"](#) to all of the following suburbs are:

Linden	July	31 st	Thursday	12 noon	NG Kerk, Cnr Central & Braam Fisher Roads Linden
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Inspector Khumela is once again presenting on Criminal Crime Methods at the first group and we have Senior Superintendent Makaringe Head of Crime Prevention from SAPS Province and Detective Superintendent Nelson Komana - Head of General Investigations Detective Services attached to the Primedia 32211 coming to present on Information - What and How to Report Crime Info Anonymously.

Penny Steyn (011 783 8776) or 082 461 6968 madpenny@absamail.co.za



- ❖ Penny Steyn is the co-coordinator, writer and presenter of all crime prevention lessons and requests *R20.00 per attendee* for her contribution to crime prevention in your suburb. Receipts will be given by means of a stamp "Paid" on the lessons given to each attendee.
- ❖ Domestic Watch is not a "course" that begins and ends. It is an ongoing process of lessons teaching crime prevention and keeping abreast of current trends in criminal activity and methods of self and household protection against criminals.
- ❖ The Police will attend whenever possible to add valuable information.
- ❖ Refreshments are served and any contribution towards these will be appreciated.
- ❖ The meeting starts promptly at above hours, please ask domestics to arrive early for registration.
- ❖ Aprons and T-shirts available with MAD logo - R50 each.

C. PATROL SLIP VP CAP

Thank You!!! Josh Sachs from Print and Copy for donating the printwork of the Patrol slips. The Patrol slips were issued to the VPCAP tactical officers to utilize during patrols.

D. QUARTERLY REPORT

The VPCAP Quarterly report was put in resident's postboxes this week and was ALSO e-mailed to all captured in our Data base. Kindly contact your street captain if you haven't received your report via e-mail or post box.

E. WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

- The VP CAP Committee would like to welcome CAP in Saxonwold , to the CAP family.
- Saxonwold is the ninth CAP initiative to be launched.
- Saxonwold as with all other CAP initiatives, uses the same control room no. 086 18 000 18.
- Good luck guys to a safe and trouble free initiative.

Regards and stay safe, Victory Park CAP Committee

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