



Crime: being proactive

Crime continues to plague our suburb and bring anguish to our lives. Many of us feel powerless to do anything about it.

The latest crime statistics show that in our police precinct, Parkview:

- common robbery incidents jumped from 67 in 2017 to 97 in 2018
- carjacking increased from 16 incidents in 2017 to 26 in 2018.

But those stats could be higher. We all have friends or family members who've been robbed of their cellphones, their wallets or their watches and have never bothered to report to the police station. Only if there's a chance that we can claim on insurance do we rush to the police station to get a case number.

"Petty crimes are often committed by dangerous criminals who are wanted by the police for serious crimes," says Geraldine Connell, head of ERA's security portfolio and chairperson of the Parkview Community Policing Forum.

Recently a man stole a sandwich from a school tuck shop. "He was reported to SAPS. He was a wanted criminal. He's now behind bars for eight years."

That's not the only reason why you should report every incident. "The allocation of policing resources to police stations depends on the number of crimes reported at each station," says Geraldine. "If you don't report crimes, it means less police and other resources are allocated to

our police station."

And don't assume that if your security company has come to your aid at a crime incident that they have reported the crime to the police station.

"The onus is on you to report a crime that has happened to you or at your house," says Geraldine.

Be proactive

"As residents of a community we need to operate as one single body so we are unable to be infiltrated by criminals," says Sardick Davids, recently elected to head the public safety portfolio of Ward 88.

"We have to look out for each other and ensure each others' safety. Any weak point in a community is a loophole for the criminals to attack us as residents," says Sardick.

He warns that when residents are afraid of becoming victims, criminals feel free to "enter our homes and commit crimes. Criminals study us, they know our routines."

Sardick's safety tips:

1. Change your routine. Be unpredictable.
2. Be vigilant. Report anything suspicious to your security company or to CAP's public space number: 0861 227 227

3. Keep up to date on Whatsapp with suspicious goings on
4. Send your domestic worker to Domestic Worker's Watch
5. Call your security company to check all workers on your building site.
6. Be careful who you let onto/into your property
7. Don't leave any valuables in your car visible
8. Treat and pay your domestic/gardener fairly and according to the law.

CAP's plans

At CAP's recent public meeting it announced these plans to tackle criminals:

- Install CCTV cameras with licence plate recognition on 11 poles
- Install 1 high definition colour camera to monitor pedestrians
- Monitor access points into Emmarentia so that suspicious vehicles are apprehended before they commit a crime.

"Crime is not going to disappear overnight. The only way to remove it from our suburb is to hold hands and work together as one body," says Sardick.

Have your say:

If you would like the Gautrain to extend its bus service to Emmarentia fill in this survey:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/b9cdf26fc13a47c090e405b6eedc1e3c>

ERA has been busy with or is still busy with:

- Muggings in Emmarentia Park/Botanical Gardens continue—Jhb Botanic Gardens has temporary additional guards with dogs inside the JBG. ERA is continuing to find more solutions
- Electricity cables along Barry Hertzog have been upgraded after persistent nagging by ERA
- ERA lodged 47 objections and comments from residents to JRA on the Niger/Buffalo Road closures. Thank you to all residents who took the time to make their views known.
- ERA's Security Subcommittee is almost finished with the due diligence on the following four apps: Namola, CASI, Bull Horns and MySOS. More details shortly.
- ERA continues to ensure that any events held at Jhb

Botanic Gardens and Marks Park follow the laid down procedures, minimise disruption to residents and enable residents to report problems on the day to an emergency number.

• The current lessors of Marks Park have been granted an extension of their lease. ERA has secured the right to be notified of any event that will impact on residents so that we can ensure that your rights are respected.

• Emmarentia history project—long-time residents and residents who have arrived in the suburb more recently are urged to contact us to tell us their stories of the suburb, **share their photos of how it's changed and what they like** about it. E-mail —info@era.org.za

Building, altering, renovating—the dos and don'ts

For those considering renovating or building on your properties, there are several considerations to bear in mind before you can have your dream home.

ERA's town planning guru, Gemey Abrahams, takes you through laws and conditions that need to be complied with:

- At a national level: National Building Regulations and the National Resources Heritage Act.
- At a local level: local/municipal by-laws, including town planning bylaws
- On your property: Each property has a title deed often with important conditions

LGT and PHRA-G

In Emmarentia, title deed conditions require the Louw Geldenhuys Trust (LGT) (the family of Lourens Geldenhuys who originally bought the land and his son Louw who eventually developed Emmarentia) to give consent before the building plan is approved and any building works can commence. ERA acts on their behalf so that residents can conveniently get their plans endorsed before sending them to the authorities for approval.

The Provincial Heritage Resources Authority-Gauteng (PHRA-G) approves the heritage requirements. Any home or structure over 60 years' old (built in 1958 or before) must obtain PHRA-G approval. PHRA-G will only approve if ERA provides a letter indicating their support that the alterations will not result in a loss of important heritage aspects.

Local municipality

The local municipality approves building plans and land use and planning aspects – the zoning, the building lines, the height of a house, the coverage and floor area of the home.

Emmarentia's Precinct Plan (PP) guides the town planning land uses. It allows for more dense development (40 units per hectare or about 4 – 6 units on an existing site) along busy routes such as Barry Hertzog Avenue, Linden and Judith Roads. We are already seeing these townhouses being developed in accordance with the PP. (See the PP here: www.era.org.za/emmarentia-precinct-plan/)

The municipality also has plans and policies to direct development in the City that we all need to take note of. These include the City-wide spatial development framework (SDF) and the regional SDFs to name two. The City policies are all geared towards making our cities denser and more compact.

Steps to follow:

So, before beginning any alterations to your home, ERA advises you to:

1. Read your title deeds very carefully to understand the restrictions and requirements – contact ERA if you / your architect are not sure of any of these conditions
2. Check the town planning requirements – you cannot exceed the floor area, the coverage, the height or build over any servitudes or building lines
3. Get the date of the original house – the City has the original plans and all other plans relating to the property. If it is over 60 years' old, you must do a heritage application to PHRA-G.
4. Contact neighbours and get them to sign on your new plans before going to ERA.
5. Bring all plans and heritage information to ERA who will endorse both for PHRA-G and LGT
6. Submit plans to PHRA-G and get their stamp on the plans
7. Take the heritage and LGT-approved plans to the municipality for building plan approval (must include the title deeds)

ERA encourages all residents to follow these steps. It will improve the value of your property and you will be able to sell it more easily – financial institutions will not grant bonds if building plans are not up to date. If you purchase a property that does not have up to date plans, you will have to pay to get illegal renovations approved.

Don't obstruct sidewalks

Once you commence building it is important to create as little disturbance as possible to the surrounding neighbours and streets. Leaving rubble on the sidewalk (municipal property) is illegal and you will be committing an offence. To store bricks and sand on the sidewalk you require permission from the City. You need a wayleave (like a temporary renting of the public space you are using).

Please try not to obstruct the sidewalks – we are a suburb where residents actively walk, cycle and jog and can be forced onto the road and oncoming traffic if you obstruct the whole pavement. Watch this column for more information on building, planning and heritage in Emmarentia.

Contact Gemey Abrahams on info@era.org.za for PHRA-G and LGT endorsements
See here for more details: www.era.org.za/planning-new-additions-to-your-house/

SEPT.	
26	Domestic Workers' Watch— 10h00—11h30, Emmarentia Sailing Club, Louw Geldenhuys Road.
OCT.	
7	Spar Women's Race, Marks Park (Some roads in Emmarentia affected. Emmarentia residents permits available at Emmarentia library. Take proof of residence)
7	Rocking the City—Bot Gardens 10h00—18h00
20 7h30-12h00	Emmarentia Park (dog walking section) clean up and gardening day —meet at Orange Road entrance below squash courts. More info: info@era.org.za
21	Avon Walk, Marks Park

Come weed on Oct 20

ERA needs your help to pull out invasive weeds, cut back trees, secure paths so they don't become dongas and generally give the dog-walking section of Emmarentia park a spring makeover.

Meet at Orange Road entrance to the park, any time from 7h30—12h00.

Wear gumboots or strong walking shoes. Bring hat, suntan lotion, gardening gloves, garden forks, spades (big and small), hedge cutters, loppers. Community service letters to schoolkids will be given.

If you can't come, help us by:

- Paying your gardener to assist
- Sponsoring gardening equipment
- donate to Let's Work so that Felicity's team can come and help us.

LET'S WORK, Capitec, A/C
1552551790 Branch code 470010
Ref # 20 Oct Emm clean up

For more info or to offer some sponsorships please e-mail: info@era.org.za

PSHB killing trees

The polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) is the size of a sesame seed but the fungus it carries threatens to kill Jhb's urban forest.

How can you help?

- Look for infected trees (See photos on www.pshb.co.za)
- Drop a location pin where you find infected tree(s).
- Whatsapp the location pin, photos of the infection and the tree to 0647562736. City Parks will follow up. See also <http://era.org.za/2018/09/18/city-taking-steps-to-minimise-the-shot-hole-borer/>