



No 3, May 2017

The Emmarentia Post

www.emmarentia.co.za

E-mail: info@emmarentia.co.za

The Official Publication of the Emmarentia Residents' Association

www.facebook.com/Emmarentia-Residents-Association-JHB

'Code red' for Emmarentia/Greenside

An armed invasion, a hijacking and a hold up in the street, all in a matter of days, forced security company, CAP, to implement Code Red in early May in Emmarentia. In March this year Emmarentia ranked 4th out of 10 for frequency of reported crimes in the suburbs serviced by Parkview SAP.

Beagle Watch Security's stats confirm that armed home invasions are on the increase.

CAP and Beagle Watch agree that most contact crimes (where a victim comes into contact with a suspect and force or threat of force is used to steal possessions of a resident) occur between 14h30 and 20h30, often when your alarm is disarmed. Crimes are not pre-planned, instead thieves "opportunistically source victims on the day by driving and or walking through the area" says CAP. Most robbers come in a vehicle with at least two males inside.

What can you do?

- Be vigilant at your gate. Most attacks begin at the gate.
- Keep your eyes and ears open. Report any two or more men unknown to you on foot or in a vehicle or anything

suspicious to your security company, or if you have none, to CAP on **0861 227 227** and/or CAP's "please call me" number **082 366 1852**

- Make sure your security systems are working.
- Join a whatsapp group in your street.
- Whatsapp Kingsley Brown from I Love Emmarentia on 074 501 1174 if you want to join a new whatsapp group just for emergencies and alerts.

What is ERA doing?

ERA's security committee:

- attends Community Policing Forum meetings (CPF) that bring together SAPS Parkview and the security companies in the area.
- is working with JMPD to improve service response and communication.
- is working with the three main security companies to get them to co-operate in patrolling high risk areas.
- is talking with local businesses in an effort to get them enrolled and participating.
- is working with SAPS, JMPD and with local business to find a solution to abusive car guards and drug dealing in

the area. In the meantime please keep reporting abusive car guards to JMPD (011 758 9620) and any suspected drug dealing to your security company or SAPS Parkview.

If you want to do more:

CAP is encouraging residents to sign up to CAP's Blockwatch, even if you are not a CAP subscriber. Blockwatch members assist with patrolling the streets during Code Reds. If you volunteer you will:

- be trained for 90 minutes by CAP
- patrol the suburb's streets for 90 minutes at a time, in a car, with a partner, on the lookout for anything suspicious.
- have radio backup with CAP at all times.

You will **NEVER** be required to engage in dangerous situations.

If you want to find out more, or volunteer, contact Nicole Marcus at CAP on 0860 332 332 or e-mail her on blockwatch@capgroup.co.za

As Emmarentia Post went to print, CAP had reverted back to Code Orange since no contact crime had occurred within the previous 21 days.

ERA puts requests to IDP

"In the past two weeks, seven people have been shot dead, no sports to keep kids occupied and homelessness." (Newclare resident)

"Windsor is a slum... There is a mushrooming of small businesses. Are they compliant with the law?... We have vagrants. There is nothing [to deal with] vagrants."

"Our community is plagued by drugs, [it] is indigent. [Neighbouring] Kathrada Park is a dump of houses and backyards, no water, no sanitation, crime spills over onto the rest of the precinct." (Sophiatown resident)

THESE are just some of the problems residents highlighted to the new DA gov-

ernment in the City of Joburg at public meetings held during April to discuss the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for 2017/18.

The City outlined its key priorities for the next five years: 5% economic growth with development focusing on the poor; enhanced and efficient service delivery responsive to the needs of its citizens; improved public safety; rooting out of corruption; preserve resources for future generations.

Jobs, housing, drug rehabilitation centres and a clamp down on crime topped the agenda of demands from residents.

ERA chairperson, Geraldine Connell, made a strong appeal for the City to put

IDP money into the suburb.

She said that arterial roads in the suburb linking west- and east-bound traffic with north-south traffic require urgent maintenance. Upgrading of electrical infrastructure would lessen the frequency of cable theft and power outages and would guarantee that events at the botanical gardens and Marks Park could continue to generate much needed revenue for the City. Securing the small open area below the dam wall would also reduce cable theft and enable the City to allocate its resources to areas of greater need.

ERA will continue to monitor what is and isn't being done by the City. Keep us informed. E-mail info@emmarentia.co.za

Greetings from the ERA treasurer

The ERA committee has been working on your behalf to interface with the government departments in Johannesburg, the metro and provincial police and the organisers of all events that take place in our suburb.

Together with you, the residents, we can work together to improve Emmarentia. Without your membership we don't have the credibility to stop seven floor apartment flats going up, nor the power to stop cable theft, illegal dumping and other social problems nor to keep you informed through this newsletter.

Please take a moment to send us your annual subscriptions, which run from March 1st to February 28th. They are R300 for a household, R800 for a business and only R150 for pensioners. Please remit payment to: Emmarentia Residents Association; Nedbank; Account no: 1975051173; Branch Code: 198765. Please send your proof of payment, with your name and address, to brian@quaestior.com My personal thanks to all of you who have renewed this year.

Brian Askew

Billing woes continue

The warning signs were there for one of the ERA Exco members: no reading of her meter for the last six months of 2016, then a bill of R19000 in December, followed by a January bill for R5000 and in February for R32 000 with estimates of usage of 4200 instead of their normal 2400. She's just one of many to be hit by exorbitant, unrealistic readings.

Even those with smart meters can be affected if the cellphone signal is not strong enough and the meter is not able to transmit the reading.

To compound the problem, on May 22, The City reported that it was having problems with its e-mailing of bills and advised customers who had not received their accounts, to either pay the same amount as the previous month or call Joburg Connect on **0860 Joburg (562 874)** to find out how much they owed.

According to Rabelani Dagada, member of the mayoral committee (MMC) for Finance for the City of Joburg, it will take between 18 and 24 months to fix the billing crisis.

What to do if you have received a huge bill:

1. **Phone the call centre (0860 562 874).** Tell them your problem. Give them the ID number of the account holder or business number. **GET A REFERENCE NUMBER.**
2. Queries should be resolved within 30 days.
3. If not, escalate your query to the regional manager for Region B (us), Thulisile Nongogo, **011 7877483 /084 324 5689** thulisileno@joburg.org.za **OR To Nick Lorimer, our councillor, on 071 901 2164 or nicklorimer@outlook.com**

4. If still no response, escalate to the deputy director, Arthur Mbobo, 0116284084, 083 466 5651 arthurb@joburg.org.za
5. If a customer is still unhappy with the resolution they received from the City, they can contact the City's Ombudsman office. www.joburgombudsman.org.za CALL CENTRE: **087 980 0058** info@joburgombudsman.org.za When emailing, please state: Name; Cell; Address; Acc No; Ref No; (older than 30 days); short description of problem. (No attachments and no long email chains.)

What to do if you have an old meter that is read by a meter reader:

OPTION 1:

E-mail your actual reading around the 20th-25th of each month to: estimations@citypower.co.za with the info below to avoid estimates:

Account No; Meter No; Reading/s in KWH (include a photo if you want); Date of reading; Your contact No.

OPTION 2:

1. Register on: <https://munispace.co.za/citypower> with your smartphone or computer
2. Once you are registered they will send you a confirmation e-mail.
3. Then whatsapp or e-mail your monthly readings to:

Whatsapp:	Send photo of your meter (meter number must be visible); include your account number and address .
E-mail: mc-terreading@uicc.co.za	

Upcoming events June 2017

June	
16	Life at the dam, Jhb Bot Gardens

SNIPPETS

• JRA patches up our roads

At ERA's March meeting with the entities from the City of Joburg, ERA gave them a list of priority roads that needed resurfacing. We also presented this same request to the IDP process. JRA committed to patching up as many as they could within their remaining budget and would include the resurfacing in their 2017/18 budget request. Komatie, Muirfield and Ingalele are just some that are now patched.

• CAP working on a substation protection and anti cable theft initiative

Cable theft continues to wreak havoc across the suburb. Whatsapp groups in our suburb are filled with reports of no power and often it is because of cable theft. CAP is working with City Power officials to see how they can devise an early warning system to curb this scourge.

• Proposed 5-6 storey development below Shell garage

Gemey Abrahams, ERA's town planning guru, reports that "City Planning, Land Use Management Department has circulated the application to its internal departments to receive their comments and then the technical coordination department will combine this into a report. This is the normal procedure for all applications." More in the next newsletter.

• Calling all Emmarentia entrepreneurs

Emmarentia resident, Sardick Davids, has set up a "BizNiz Xchange Forum" whatsapp group. "My aim for this forum is for business owners in our community to network and see where we can uplift each other and use the skills we have on our doorstep, rather than going outside of our neighbourhood," he says.

If you want to join or find out about the different services offered by those in the group, whatsapp him on 0799473666 or e-mail him on sardick@s2b.co.za

• Clean-up

Despite the first freezing sniff of winter, three stalwarts turned up to remove illegal advertising stickers off poles and electricity boxes on Muirfield /Barry Hertzog on May 13. Big thanks to Barney's Emmarentia for donating cleaning materials.

Join the next clean up on Saturday 10 June. Look on your Emmarentia whatsapp group for more details closer to the time or e-mail emmarentia_hands@gmail.com