

AUGUST NEWSLETTER: SRA PATROLLER ARRESTS STONE ASSAULTER ON ST JAMES/MUIZENBERG WALKWAY

Social Development

The SRA's new Social Development Coordinator, Anna Els, has been very active walking our streets to assess the demand for social help in our community and to introduce herself to residents, businesses and some the homeless who frequent our area.

Anna also joined a SAPS operation on Friday 26 July during which two street children were removed from the streets. A social worker from the Western Cape Government is involved in assisting the children by reuniting them with their families or placing them in a safe home.

Homelessness: Give Responsibly

Homelessness is a sad and growing problem in our country and in our community. The plight of homeless people is particularly distressing during the cold and wet winter months. The issue affects our entire community and requires concerted and co-ordinated community action to address it.

Experience has shown that handing out money is not a solution and that it only encourages the homeless to acclimatize to a life on the street, which becomes harder to escape with each hand out from the public. Money given to the homeless is not just used to buy food, but often also drugs and alcohol, which could result in the homeless ultimately becoming committed to a life on the street.

What practical actions can residents and businesses take to help homeless people and also assist to break the cycle of homelessness? Here are some practical recommendations:

1. Buy a booklet of 5 tickets for R60 that provides a homeless person access to the Kalk Bay Haven night shelter. Each ticket allows the holder access to the Haven for a night, which includes:
 - A hot shower
 - A dry and warm bed
 - A meal
 - Clothing
 - Access to a social worker

Tickets can be purchased either from the Haven directly or from Anna Els at the SRA office at the Community Centre on Main Road on Tuesdays between 9h00 and 13h00.

2. Donate clothes and/or non-perishable food by handing these in at the SRA office at the Community Centre on Main Road on Tuesdays between 9h00 and 13h00.
3. Support the City of Cape Town's Street People Programme by phoning 0800 87 2201 to report issues involving street people. This is a 24-hour toll free number to enable contact with the City so that they can respond to specific cases involving street

people. Further details of how to report incidents and interact with the City are provided in the Standard Operating Procedure on the SRA website kalkbaystjames.sra.org under the Social Development tag.

Public Safety

Every day a representative of the SRA's monitors the performance of foot patrollers employed by Lake Security, the SRA's Public Safety contractor during the previous 24 hour period. These patrollers are required to record their presence at all 71 electronic stations throughout the SRA at least 4 times in every 24 hour period. The average number of visits to our 71 electronic recording points situated throughout the SRA is on average about 7 times per 24 hours, which is considerably more frequent than the contracted frequency.

The effectiveness of these patrollers, who work in close collaboration with participants on the SRA's Whatsapp security group is demonstrated by the fact that crime in our village has reduced significantly since the patrols began in November 2015. Lake Security patrollers respond to about 100 incidents per year.

Recent examples of their pro-active assistance include:

- On Sunday 4 August an SRA patroller (with the assistance of two other men) apprehended and arrested a man who had tried to rob a woman of a necklace on the St James/Muizenberg walkway and who assaulted her with a stone. The suspect was taken to SAPS Muizenberg by the SRA patroller and supervisor.
- On 21 July at 03h40 an SRA patroller detected two men who had broken into a Telkom cabinet at the Outspan outside the Olympia and stolen 4 batteries. The suspects drove off before they could be apprehended with one battery, having abandoned the other 3. Unfortunately, it was too dark to see the number plate. SAPS are investigating

ERRATA: GARDENS

Our July newsletter on the many wonderful gardens maintained by individual residents omitted to mention that Engel & Volkers has for the past five years engaged a garden service provider to maintain, on a bi-weekly basis, the Outspan car park, the Harris Road open space, the Anderson Road open space at the corner with Gatesville Road, as well as the upkeep of the garden at the Community Centre.

This was a serious omission for which we apologise sincerely! We thank Engel & Volkers sincerely for this generous contribution to the upkeep of our public spaces.