

March 2019 Newsletter

With the holiday season a distant memory, we now have the time to take stock of our achievements and failures and start to plan for the year ahead. We thank all who worked with such dedication to make the season the great success it was.

Public Safety

With the exception of a carjacking on the Main Road in January, Public Safety over the recent holiday period was good. Law Enforcement and SAPS allocated a large number of personnel to our area and they were very visible and effective. This contributed greatly to a successful and relatively crime free holiday season.



The City's Law Enforcement team based at Muizenberg continues to be enlarged and provided with better resources. It is anticipated that this team will soon be able to provide a 24 hour service in our area, which is great news.

A new station commander, Colonel Naidoo, has been appointed to SAPS, Muizenberg. He has already held a public meeting with the Kalk Bay Business Association, which is a good indicator of his determination to tackle crime in our area. We wish him well.

The security camera project: As previously reported the SRA has 8 security cameras installed and operational to cover key public spaces in our village. The system is designed to collect images and display them via the SRA's Wi-Fi system and on the SRA's dedicated, password protected, internet site.

This system will enable camera images to be viewed by volunteers on their own computers or tablets or smartphones, even in the comfort of their own homes, rather than in the inconvenience of a control room. This exciting innovation will enable users of the system to monitor crime in our area in a much more convenient and effective manner and will also complement the activities of the SRA sponsored WhatsApp group. Over 50 residents have thus far volunteered their services on a roster basis throughout the day and night.

Unfortunately, it became clear during the testing phase that most volunteers currently have very poor access to the internet, thereby limiting the effectiveness of the system. A solution to overcome this by providing improved wireless wi-fi Internet access is being worked on. It is planned to implement this improved access soon.

Cleansing

Residents may have noticed a fall-off in the frequency and quality of cleaning of our residential streets over the past couple of months. This is primarily because Eddie, one of our loyal and hard-working cleaners, has not been able to work due to a serious leg infection sustained shortly before Christmas which has stubbornly taken three months to heal, despite Eddie being hospitalized on a couple of occasions. He is almost back to full health and normal service has been restored.

Eddie currently does not have settled accommodation, having spent more time than allowed at local shelters. He is currently travelling every day to Kalk Bay from central Cape Town by train. Particularly because of the increasing unreliability of the train service he would prefer to be accommodated closer to

Kalk Bay. If any resident is willing to provide Eddie with accommodation in a spare room with a separate entrance at a modest rent, please advise Gail Daniels, our manager by e-mail or phone.

The schedule and modus operandi of the cleansing team has recently been reviewed and significant adjustments have been made to improve the schedule and their effectiveness.

Due to the inability of the harbour authorities to fulfil its responsibility to maintain the harbour beach, the SRA has informally taken on this activity on the basis of a generous donation by PET Recycling Company. The SRA received many compliments for the clean state of the beach throughout the holiday season. We are very happy that PETCO have renewed their generous funding for this purpose for another year.



Social Development

The SRA continues its close relationship with the St James Primary School. Thanks to an appeal by the SRA last year 8 local residents have volunteered to help with the school's literacy project. It is intended that the SRA will again assist with the school's Youth Leadership and other programs which were so successful last year.

Our social worker, Marion Thomas, continues to work with and lobby City and Provincial authorities to provide effective social services to those in need in our area. For example, she recently attended a forum meeting with the City to discuss its revised approach to the issue of homeless people.

Communication



The SRA currently sends out news of interest to about 866 residents and property owners on our e-mailing list, of whom about 550 are active readers/users.

Although this is a high number in relation to the approx. 936 registered properties in our SRA, we nevertheless want to increase the number of subscribers to reach as many residents and businesses as possible. Next week the Lake Security patrollers will therefore deliver invitations to subscribe to as many

post boxes as possible. All residents and businesses are urged to sign up.

It is by working together, as a community made up of businesses and residents, that we are able to be continually touted as one the trendiest spots in the world, and certainly the trendiest spot in Cape Town. A feather in all our caps!