

A Message from our EXCO

Well can you believe it is the first week of March and they are already placing Easter eggs in the shops! During February month there was a total onslaught at the beachfront with increased numbers and drinking in public. Due to this, a command team was formed with Humewood SAPS and the Summerstrand Neighbourhood Watch, South End NW, FADT, Atlas, City Wide, Metro Police & other role players to put a strategy in place to combat crime on the beachfront.

Community Policing Forum (CPF)



Congratulations to our Mr Sean Tappan (SSNWatch Chairperson) who has been appointed to an executive position on the Humewood CPF EXCO. This appointment validates the value that the SSNWatch has added to crime fighting activities in our precinct. The Humewood CPF EXCO holds a monthly meeting at the Humewood Police Station to create a platform where security stakeholders can collaborate and maximise the impact on crime.

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“One of the best lessons you can learn in life is to master how to remain calm”

- Age of Attitudes

Community Policing Forum (CPF) continued

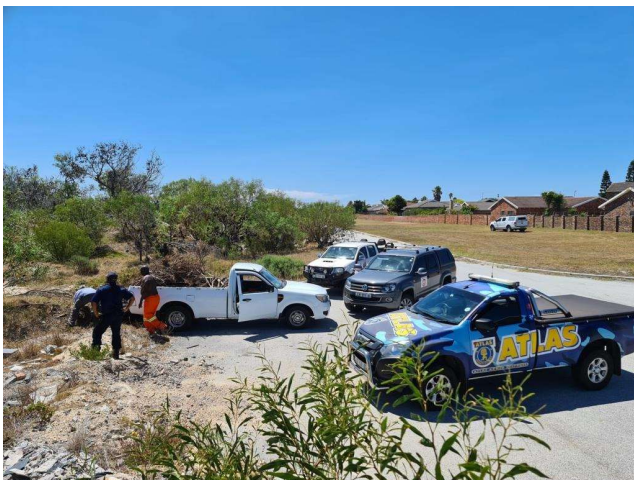
Brigadier Bentley and her management team are pleased with the relationship that is developing between SAPS and the SSNWatch. The SSNWatch plays an important role in assisting as the eyes and ears of the police service.

As a community, we can assist by reporting any suspicious activity to the SSNWatch on the Crime Reporting Group or via the Buzzer app. If a crime has been committed, please report it and open a case at the Humewood police station to ensure our crime stats are accurate and the necessary resources are assigned from national SAPS.

The Community Policing Forum (CPF) plays a pivotal role as a link between the general public and the South African Police and is represented throughout the country in each province and sector. The local forum consists of the CPF sector executive team, Humewood SAPS senior management, Metro Fire, Metro Police, Metro traffic, Ward Councillors, the Town Ranger, Beachfront Safety Forum and private security companies (Atlas, FADT, City Wide, Tacnet).

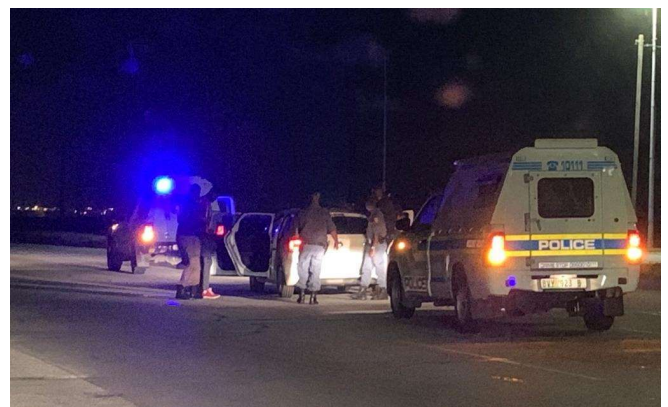
Positive results

We encourage all to download and use the Buzzer app service to improve our service to you.



Thanks to our vigilant community, our SSNWatch patrollers and security partners have intervened in numerous incidents in February. These are summarised below. We are seeing an increase in the incidents of suspicious activity, drunk driving and snake activity. Please report suspicious activity as soon as possible with as clear details. We continue to lobby Metro Police to address drunk driving, speeding and other infringements in our area. Please walk in the direction of oncoming traffic and preferably in groups in the day and night. Don't leave valuables visible in your vehicle especially at the beachfront.

Incident type	Frequency
Vehicle Accidents	3
Snakes	3
Drunken Driving	12
Illegal Dumping	1
Medical assistance	2
Speeding	7
Suspicious activities	11
Student attacks	3



Positive results continued...

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

There were three motor vehicle accidents with the most serious being on Alistair Miller Drive where a drunk driver caused a 3-vehicle pileup. The SSNWatch & SENW assisted with traffic control and emergency services.



CABLE THEFT

Our patrollers have discovered cable theft incidents and have reported these to the metro.



SNAKES

One of our patrollers Shaun Roberts is a certified snake catcher and Honorary Nature Conservationist and has had his hands full over this period with the collection of snakes. Its nerve

racking to watch as several boomslangs & puffies were collected and released safely. Two were even caught in my own street! Shaun is connected to the BUZZER system and there is a snake button facility.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

We take drunken driving very seriously as this can place our community at risk and especially families travelling in the immediate vicinity of a drunk driver. We successfully had a drunk driver and passengers arrested by Metro Police on the M4 after continuously driving recklessly within our area. Unbeknown to them a Metro Police and SAPS had been alerted by the SSNWatch and responded within minutes. Thank you to SAPS and Metro Police for their support.

Another driver was arrested in Richardson Street after climbing out of his car with a whiskey glass in hand! 7 people were arrested in another incident after being observed drinking and driving near Bay World. They were tracked by the SSNWatch who assisted Metro Police in apprehending the suspects at the Board Walk.

The general rule is that Metro Police must do the arrest and catch the person behind the wheel whilst the engine is running for it to go to court.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

We have been monitoring the undeveloped areas off Gomery Avenue (behind the yellow barriers) to stop illegal dumping. This situation has been reported to the ward councillor for action and permanent barriers have been requested

A truck was caught dumping and made to reload their rubbish and clean the area. The incident with all supporting information was reported to the metro and security services.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

We assisted with two medical emergencies being a lady that was stabbed at Something Good over one of the busiest weekends and a lady that fell at the stairs of Barneys. Our patrollers attended these scenes supported by the security companies until the ambulance service arrived.

SPEEDING VEHICLES

There are several speeding executive vehicles with & without number plates that have been identified in the area and brought to the attention of the metro. These vehicles have been tagged and will be monitored whilst the SSNWatch is on patrol.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

Several suspicious people have been monitored by the residents and neighbourhood watch and asked to leave the area. There is a noticeable influx of vagrants both from the S Bend and Beacon areas. After temporary structures had been identified and mapped by the SSNW, SAPS with the municipality carried out a bush operation and broke down several informal structures. They filled an 8-ton flatbed and trailer timber and corrugated sheeting from the undeveloped Gomery road bush area as well as the graveyard, Happy Valley and Driftsands bush. This is a regular and ongoing operation.



Patroller Training



Our patrollers are by far the most important part of the SSNWatch and we recognise the need for continuous improvement. In this light, the SSNWatch organised a self defence evening presented by Tom Swartz. We had an excellent turnout of patrollers again proving their commitment to our community.



While the SSNWatch does not replace SAPS and the security companies, we need to be prepared for every scenario. In this light, various scenarios, response tactics and techniques were explained and demonstrated by Tom. These included situation awareness and one on one self-defence.



Thanks to Tom for a very informative and interactive session which will assist our patrollers in their duties.

The Beachfront Precinct



With the opening of beaches, we experienced a massive influx of beachgoers. While most people adhered to the rules, we unfortunately had many incidents of drinking in public, assault and theft. Please be vigilant when using the beachfront. Do not leave any valuables visible in your vehicle or place valuables in the boot in sight of others.



In response to the influx of people, we lobbied all security stakeholders and increased our SSNWatch and joint patrols with our security partners. We continue to work with the city structures to improve security arrangements along the beachfront.



CCTV Project



We continue to roll out our dedicated SSNWatch CCTV project. We have purchased cameras and are installing these at "blind spot" areas where criminal activity has been on the increase.

The bush areas along western edge of the neighbourhood will be the focus of Phase 1 of the CCTV rollout programme. We are seeing an increase in criminals escaping from incidents into the bush where it is more challenging to apprehend them.



We need volunteers to assist with these projects. Please contact us if you have experience with installing CCTV systems, telecoms, networking or can assist with monitoring.



Security Partners

Thank you to our security partners SAPS, Metro Police, FADT, Atlas and Citywide for the ongoing support. As SSNWatch, we rely on our partners for control centre support, armed response and arresting suspects.



Quick Stats



Crime reporting group:

520



Members:

177



Patrollers:

64

Contact Us

Mail: ssnwatch@gmail.com

Mobile: **083 278 3772**

Scan the code to become a member:



Please support our social media accounts, [@SSNWatch](https://www.instagram.com/SSNWatch), by giving us a like.



Security Advice by Humewood SAPS: Home Safety

WHAT THE BURGLAR LOOKS FOR:

- Signs that the home is unoccupied,
- Dogs are a very good deterrent,
- HOUSE NUMBER: should be visible from the street – enables emergency services to locate you quickly if the need arises, numbers not script and of contrasting colour,
- SHRUBS: Should be kept low enough so that they don't block possible points of entry or conceal a potential attacker,
- LIGHTS
 - one of your best assets. Install day/night switches at all entry points to your house and yard, so that if you return home at night you will not be left in the dark and vulnerable,
 - Put motion sensor lights at all vulnerable/dark spots around your garden and house,
 - Interior-timed lighting devices should be utilised when not at home,
 - Ensure you have enough lighting at the entry to your property, entrance to your front door and in the yard,
- LOCKS: Sliding doors are soft targets, put a dead bolt lock on your sliding door, use good quality locks on all your doors,
- WINDOWS:
 - Glass is vulnerable to attack. Fortunately, burglars are reluctant to break windows because of the noise and windows are often visible from the street and other residences,
 - Ensure you have burglar proofing on all windows – not just the ones that open,
 - Close all windows when you leave your home,
- DOORS:
 - Always keep your doors locked,
 - Install a "peephole" at your front door so that you can see who is there before opening,
- GARAGE:
 - Never leave unlocked, especially if garage has a connecting door to the house,
 - Lock away ladders and tools so that the burglar cannot use them,
 - Put curtains on your garage windows to prevent burglars from "shopping",



- BURGLAR ALARM SIGNS: Be sure to prominently display all sign and decals,
- BURGLAR ALARMS: Activate your alarms when you leave the house, and when you go to sleep at night,
- SPARE KEYS:
 - Never leave extra keys around the house in obvious places,
 - Never leave a spare key in a hiding place outside your home, burglars know all the hiding places,
- WALLS:
 - High walls is not the best option, as once the burglar is in your yard he then is free to do whatever He wants without being seen,
- When returning home, when approaching your property, switch off your radio/music and be aware of your surroundings and look out for any suspicious persons/vehicle,
- If your remote gate is suddenly not working do not get out the vehicle, it could be a trap/possible hijacking attempt, drive away and go to your nearest police station, or phone 10111,
- If you do not have a remote gate and have to get out to manually open your gates, be aware of your surroundings and ensure that no one is hiding behind a tree or wall,
- Close your blinds and curtains so you are not showing off your valuables in your house,
- When you have purchased new items, don't put the empty boxes on the street pavement – you are advertising that you have new property to steal,
- Valuables: take down serial numbers of your property, take photos of jewellery / valuables so that it can be easily identified,



WHEN YOU GO AWAY:

- When loading your vehicle to go on holiday, keep it quick and out of sight if possible,
- Don't leave status updates broadcasting that you are away,
- Arrange for someone to take care of your pets,
- Inform trusted neighbours when going away so that they can keep an eye on your property for any suspicious movement,
- Always have a neighbour collect your mail/newspapers and junk mail from your post box or doorstep



*Together
we are
stronger!*