

SSNWatch

Newsletter | MAY 2021



Bundu Bashing

One of our values is **SHARPEN**, meaning to continually improve our service to the Summerstrand community. In this regard, during May our patrollers extended our patrols from within Summerstrand to the bush areas on our boundaries. Patrols were conducted both on foot and in vehicles often turning a patrol into a 4x4 adventure! Paths have been cleared to assist with pursuing suspects and bush patrols. Thank you to our patrollers for volunteering their time, vehicles and fuel on a regular basis. The improved intel of the bush areas and increased visibility is a deterrent to would be criminals. Sign up to join this amazing team of patrollers and be part of improving our community.

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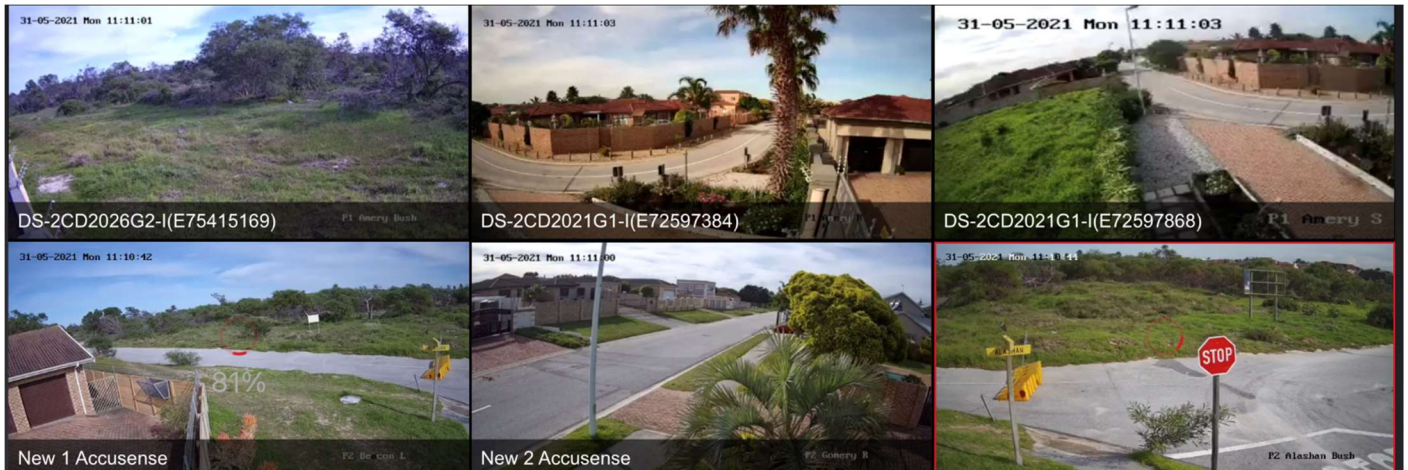
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"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

- Maya Angelou



CCTV Update



Our CCTV project is gaining momentum with the first 2 installations working well and already achieving the desired results of drastically reducing or eliminating crime in hotspots. The third installation is about to go live bringing to camera count to 10 already! Please contact ssnwatch@gmail.com if you want to make a financial contribution to this project, host a CCTV installation at your property (including power and an internet connection) or assist on the monitoring team.

Suspicious Persons & Vehicles

We continue to see an increase in suspicious activity in our neighbourhood and information collected by the community is catalogued and assists the SSNWatch and SAPS in strategic responses to crime trends. Please be aware of your surroundings and report anything out of place on the crime reporting group or anonymously to an EXCO member.



Tip Security

Thank you to the municipality for responding to our request for additional security and management at the tip.

Thank you also to **Village Hardware** for the donation of a lock and chain to assist in securing the gate to the tip.

We remind residents to be cautious when using the tip as there have been numerous incidents of theft and intimidation. Please report any incidents immediately on the Crime Reporting Group.



Water Leaks

As communicated in the media, we face a serious water crisis in the metro. Please report any water leaks to the municipality immediately. SSNWatch has assisted the municipality with escalating priority leaks for repairs.



Theft from MV's

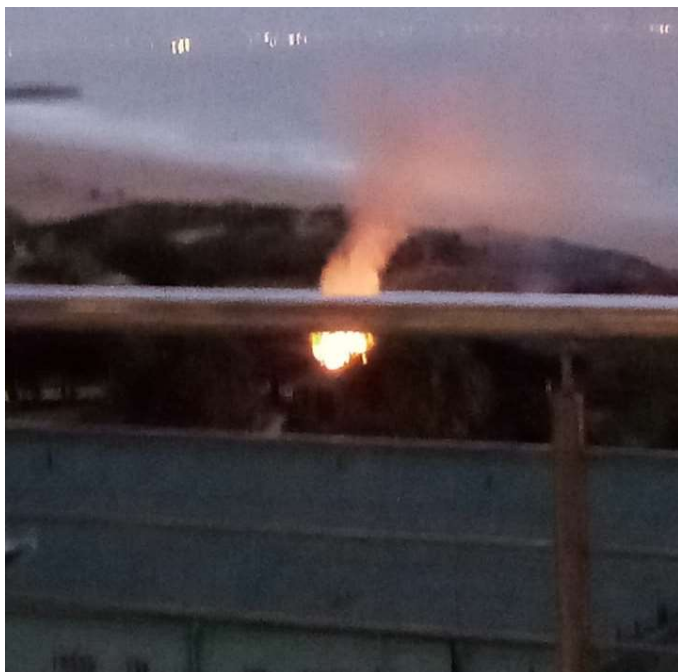
We continue to receive reports of theft from motor vehicles on the beachfront. Please try and not leave valuables in your vehicle and if unavoidable place them in the boot before arriving. SSNWatch has increased the beachfront patrols and is working to remove unregistered car guards. Please rather support registered car guards (car guard license displayed on their vest).



Homeless Persons

The increase in homeless persons in the neighbourhood desperately needs an appropriate socio-economic response. As homeless persons need to warm up during winter, the risk of uncontrolled fires increases. We have been fortunate so far that fires have been quickly contained thanks to our vigilant community and fast response times from the fire department.

SSNWatch has investigated possible facilities to assist the homeless with accommodation and skills development without success. If you have any information in this regard, please contact ssnwatch@gmail.com. Should you wish to assist in developing a coordinated and sustainable assistance programme, please contact summitt2021@gmail.com.

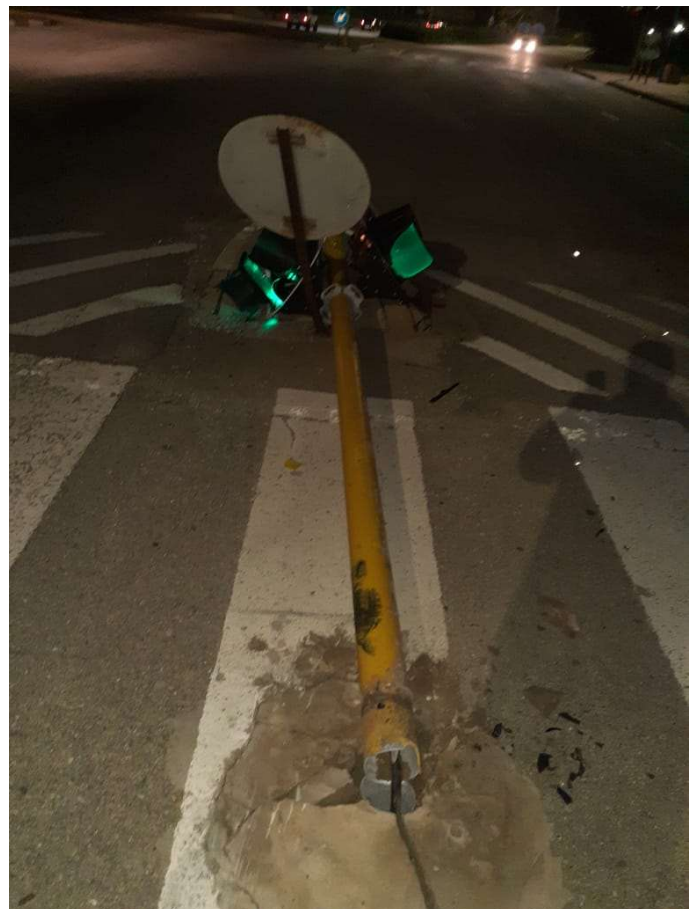
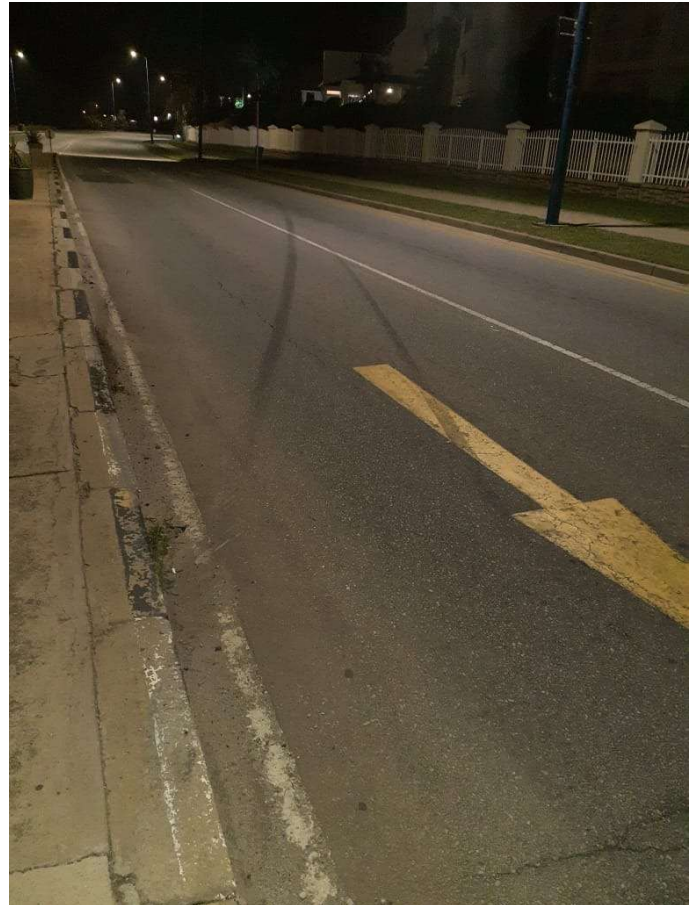


Traffic Violations

Parts of Summerstrand including Marine Drive, Brighton Drive and Strandfontein are increasingly becoming a high-speed race track! There have been many motor vehicle accidents in May particularly at night where SSNWatch have assisted with alerting emergency response, traffic control (until the authorities arrived) and collecting evidence (witness details, dashcam footage, photos, reg numbers) when drivers have fled the scene.

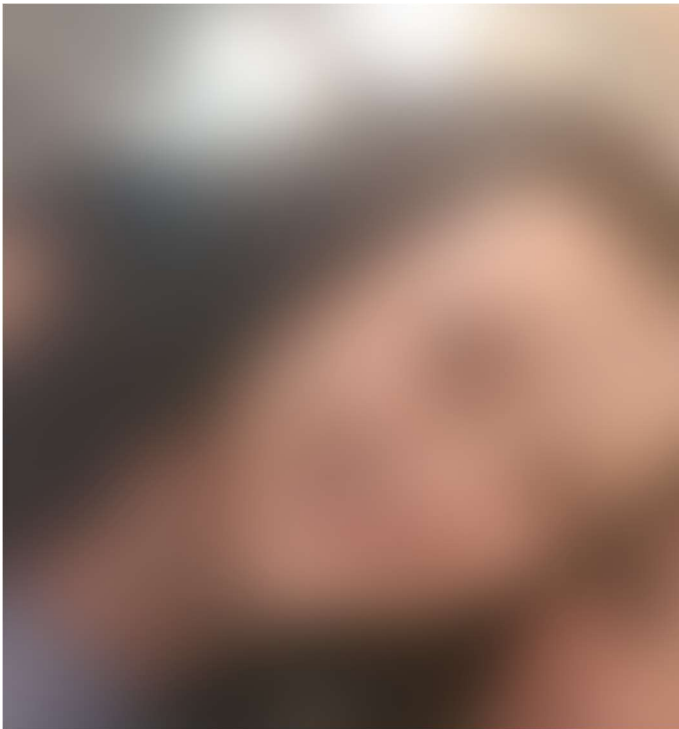
Please be alert and adhere to the traffic signage and laws, maintain adequate space between your car and other vehicle and above all please don't drink and drive.

SSNWatch will continue to lobby for increased Metro Police patrols and enforcement to curb the lawlessness on our streets. SSNWatch are also working with the Metro to train patrollers as peace officers to empower them to assist the Metro with traffic law enforcement.



Missing Persons

SSNWatch has assisted in multiple missing persons searches since our establishment. Most recently, a young woman went missing between Summerstrand and her residence in another suburb. Through the security networks, multiple neighbourhood watches were activated immediately, and dozens of patrollers initiated a coordinated search. Fortunately, the person was located quickly and transported back to her family.



There are a few practical tips to protect yourself including, amongst others:

- Communicate your schedule to someone responsible especially when travelling at night or alone
- Always keep your mobile charged (invest in a car charger and/or powerbank)
- Use apps like Whatsapp or Life360 (no charge) to create family or friends' groups to share your location
- Be aware of cars following you (make 3 right turns to check) and go to your nearest police station and alert friends and family
- Attend self-defence, anti-highjacking, anti-kidnapping courses. SSNWatch assists members with arranging group discounts with accredited service providers.

Our slippery friends

(see www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com)

Why do snakes come to gardens?

Snakes are attracted to dark and neglected areas and will be encouraged to take refuge beneath sheets of corrugated iron, building rubble, firewood, grass heaps, rock piles and rubbish tips. Most snakes feed on lizards, rodents, frogs and toads and will be attracted to gardens that harbour these creatures. Fowl runs, birdcages and rabbit pens also attract snakes. Dripping taps and fish ponds will attract frogs, which in turn may attract snakes.

How do you keep snakes out the house?

The best preventative measure to keep snakes out of your property is to keep your garden clean and reduce the hiding places for snakes. Mosquito mesh screens on doors and windows will prevent snakes from entering the home. Placing a strip of foam or rubber under your doors to reduce the size of the gap will prevent snakes and other unwanted creepy crawlies from gaining access to your house.

The African Snakebite Institute has a completely free app for android and Apple smart phones called ASI Snakes. This app has several useful features such as snake profiles, posters, articles, a list of hospitals listing those that are closest to you.

Contact SSNWatch on the Telegram Crime Reporting Group if you need assistance with a snake on your property.



Thank you to our security partners

Thank you to our security partners SAPS, Metro Police, Fidelity ADT, Atlas Security and Citywide Security.

FADT continues to support the SSNWatch by providing radio control centre support and armed response backup. FADT also recently conducted a show of force with their new fleet of vehicles and their helicopter conducting patrols across the city.



Thank you to Citywide for their initiative to stand down and show visibility at the Gomery / Alashan intersection that has been the location of multiple armed robberies.



Quick Stats



Crime reporting group:
580



Members:
197



Patrollers:
77

Contact Us

Mail: ssnwatch@gmail.com

Mobile: **083 278 3772**

Scan the code to become a member:



And join the SSNWatch Telegram Crime Reporting Group:



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