



SSNW Watch

December 2023 | Newsletter | Christmas Edition

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing our members and non-members, corporate sponsors, security partners and service providers all the very best for the Christmas season and the New Year. We are grateful for your continued support as this enables us to support the many projects we are involved in and, also, to ensure our patrollers receive bibs, car magnets, caps, etc. Remember, we are volunteers and, therefore, our time and vehicles are used to serve our community.

Patrollers dedicate a minimum of 2 x 2-hour nightshifts a month and they are also on call 24/7. In fact, patrollers are forever active on our SSNW Crime Report Group, the SSNW Patroller Chat Group.

This edition of SSNW news covers various articles which demonstrate that we, as a community have to work together to get things done as it is clear that with the best will in the world much of the service delivery we expect is not easily forthcoming. This, in the main, is due to lack of resources (financial, human and vehicle).

There are many good people who are trying their best with limited resources – to them we say thank you and "together we are stronger"!

It is a fact that crime in our area has increased, particularly in the last few months. Theft from motor vehicles and of motor vehicles is up as is common robbery (grabbing bags, cell phones) and robbery with firearms or other weapons.

It is, therefore, essential that we all become more vigilant and "streetwise", like removing expensive items from our cars. When out walking, consider the area and people numbers. Do not go out wearing lots of bling, etc. We also encourage victims to open a case at Humewood Police Station in the event of being a victim of crime.

We continue to address safety and security issues affecting our community at the monthly Community Policing Forum (CPF) as well as the Beachfront Safety and Security Forum. We also send our season's greetings to our colleagues on these forums.

Finally, I wish to thank my EXCO and all of our patrollers for their efforts and commitment towards making us a safer, cleaner suburb.

Thank you! Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Stay safe,
Ian Millar
Chairman SSNW

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Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter.

Brian Solís



Operational Report – Director of Operations, Sean Tappan

As we come to the close of the year, it is very important to look back and assess the successes and evaluate the areas for improvement.

The Neighbourhood Watch in conjunction with the beachfront safety sector has invested in CCTV cameras AI (artificial intelligence). Presently we have concluded installations at Shark Rock pier parking. Something Good parking, Town Lodge Hotel parking, S-bend with a combination of number plate recognition software, ptz and accusense cameras.

The technology has assisted in identifying a number of suspicious vehicles which are tagged via a blacklist and enable the authorities to track them as they enter and leave the various parking lots.

We have also been able to assist SAPS with video footage of vehicle break-ins, assaults and theft of an expensive bicycle that was recovered within 36 hours and led to a successful conviction.

Due to our intelligence network there was a successful arrest of a bravo male that stole a laptop from a BNB, as well as the detainment of a bravo male that stole hubcaps off a vehicle in 2nd Avenue.

SAPS arrested an attacker at the S-bend, as well as to identify a vehicle involved in the beachfront robberies along Millers point and past the information on to SAPS.

On the Saturday 16th December, we held a show of strength with SAPS, Metro Police and traffic supported by a number of NHW being Summerstrand, South End, Humewood, Bluewater Bay, Sherwood, Sidwell, private security, dog unit, relay EMS, flying squad, councillors, MMC safety and security, acting ED Safety and Security, as well as the district CPF, district business CPF, representatives from the mayor's office, Brig Koll district SAPS and Humewood SAPS, the Traffic Chief.

This amazing show of strength was concluded with a very successful stop and search at the S-bend.

A very successful year and a special thanks to all of the patrollers who volunteer their time and petrol to protect the residents in Summerstrand. The aim for 2024 is to recruit and increase our membership, as well as on the ground patrollers so that we can cover more time slots and days in our schedule.

Have a safe holiday season and best wishes to you and your families.

Sean Tappan
Director of Operations

CAMERAS

The Beachfront Safety Sector was launched in October 2022 ahead of the 2022 season.

The Metro was manned by 12 Metro Police and 1 controller on a day and night shift, as well as 35 EPWP workers with 10 radios. SAPS had a dayshift Beachfront Patrol Vehicle. For a host of reasons, the visible policing system started to decline. The causes were around resources, such as people, vehicles and fuel.

The Beachfront Safety and Security Committee then started to implement PLAN B which was to invest in camera technology and employ a security company to manage the monitoring thereof and in this regard City Wide were appointed.

There are now different cameras deployed in various "hot spots". These are:

NPR – Number Plate Recognition Cameras



PTZ – Pan, Tilt and Zoom Cameras

HIK Acusence Cameras

So far we have installed PTZ cameras at Hobie Beach, S-Bend and Something good with one more to go up at Town Lodge.

Number plate recognition cameras are in four strategic areas with another two to follow. We have numerous HIK Cameras – Barneys car park, S-Bend, Something Good, with more to go up at Beacon, Summerstrand Lifesaving Club and Humerail Business Park.

You will appreciate that the cost of cameras, installation costs and maintenance are extensive.

We are, therefore, pleased to have teamed up with the Nelson Mandela Bay Chamber Beachfront Safety and Security Cluster whose role it is to assist us with providing sponsorship for the camera programme. We welcome the opportunity to leverage off the chamber and their cluster manager, Mr. Mike Neubert.

A very big thank you to my Operation Director, Sean Tappan, as he has been instrumental in overseeing this project in terms of technology requirements and installation in line with the roll out plan. This project has many “moving” parts and requires a lot of input time. Well done so far, Sean! ☺

So far the Beachfront Safety and Security Cluster has received monthly cash commitments for the camera project from:

- Boardwalk Hotel
- Town Lodge
- City Lodge
- Beach Hotel
- Radisson Blu
- Beachwalk Bed and Breakfast
- Boardwalk Shopping Mall
- Investec
- Coca Cola



Please contact us directly should you wish to make a contribution to the camera security programme.

SURFS UP!

We had a major clean up at the dune area in front of the surf spot called Millers (Not named after Ian Millar 😊)

It took over a week to sort out the overgrown areas and filth in the bushes and, in addition to this, we had to evict three vagrants living in the bush.

People should now feel a little safer walking past this area, and it looks a lot neater too! Thank you to Lee-Roy and Mr. Kenneth Presley and his son, Reinhardt. Kenneth Presley is a senior conservation officer who has given us expert advice on how to deal with the indigenous bush. A lot of people stopped to talk to us, and this resulted in us gaining some new members to the SSNW!



P.S. The old rusty fence which retains the dunes needs to be sorted out – any volunteers? 🤔

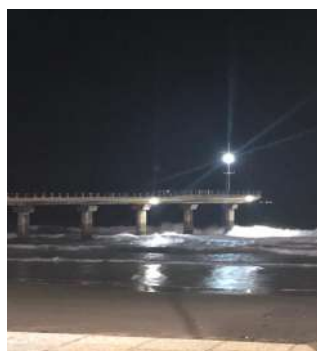
Lighting at Hobie Beach

Summerstrand Neighbourhood Watch in conjunction with the Mandela Bay Chamber Beachfront Safety and Security Cluster managed to arrange for the Boardwalk Hotel to sponsor R67 000 worth of lighting for Hobie Beach. We thank the Boardwalk Hotel General Manager, Mr Tati Tsunke, for their sponsorship of 12 flood lights and 7 oasis post top lights all of which are solar.

Our thanks also go out to Transform Electrical (Steven) and Friedmans Electrical (Johnny) for their professional approach in enabling us to get the project completed in record time. We also thank Pastor Glendin Hermanus for his very welcomed assistance, as well as Andre Arnot from lighting specialist, Mesmerize.

We will be looking for sponsors to help us improve the beachfront lighting where possible and, in particular, we would also like to see the pier become a real lit up feature. Some creative thinking will be required regarding lighting which must obviously be very secure.

Should you wish to make a donation, please contact us.





Poles Apart

On Tuesday 24th November 2023, The Summerstrand Neighbourhood Watch collected 22 street light poles that had been cut down (for copper cable) and left lying for months in Allister Miller Drive near the VP Sports Field in 3rd Avenue and adjacent to the airport. We could no longer bear the sight of the carnage which is in the face of visitors and businessmen who come to the city. We also removed the poles at the bottom of Driftsand Drive. All poles were deposited at the electricity department in Harrower Road. The response has been very good – Many thank yous and a few donations were gratefully received.



Trick or Treat Evening For Children

While some people may have certain views on Trick or Treat, the youngsters had fun dressing up and enjoyed all the sweets and biscuits that were available. This was held near the skateboard park and was very well attended by many young families and fun loving "oldies".

Looking forward to next year's trick or treat!



DONKIN RESERVE DUTY

On 19th November 2023, we did some time looking after tourists who had just alighted from their cruise liner. Tourists have been getting mugged in the central area and have also been deceived by scam artists.

SSNW have shown a presence there as has some of our security company partners. We covered the Donkin and Fort Fredrick. It was well appreciated by our tourism sector.



S-BEND THUGS

Thanks to Councillor Renaldo Gouws, Transnet commenced with the long awaited clean up job at S-BEND.

The large overgrown milkwood tree which provided cover for very "shady" characters, has been trimmed and surrounding bush scrub removed. In addition, repairs have been made to the fence.



Our newly installed PTZ Pantilt Zoom Camera at the Naval Academy can now have very clear line of sight to the Humeral Bridge. Thanks to Sean Tappan and the technical team.



behind Summerstrand and Forest Hill. These typically involve gangs of youths coming through from Walmer (as young as 8/9 years) with packs of dogs. These youngsters are known to Walmer SAPS and are operating more and more frequently in our area.

The plan for 2024 is to try to grow the Honorary Nature Conservation Officers team for the metro and to ensure we preserve our wildlife and environment as best we can.

Residents are welcome to contact me should they have any questions or concerns.

Warmest regards
Shaun Roberts (082 7111341)

Environmental Protection & Animal Rescues

With summer comes snake season and throughout 2023, we saw a significant increase in snake rescues. Most of the rescues involved boomslang, puff adders, Natal greens and the occasional house snake.

Interestingly, all specimens caught were healthy and ended up being safely released into protected areas.

I would advise all residents who live close to the bush and any sites that were cleared to be careful when walking around at night, particularly on evenings when it is hot. Puff adders are active during these times and we have already had a recorded bite a couple of weeks back which resulted in hospitalisation and the administration of anti-venom. On the topic of anti-venom, supplies seem to be sufficient for now for all venomous species.

Cape Cobras have not been common in our area for a couple of years. However there has definitely been an increase in sightings in our suburb.

There is no need for residents to be alarmed. The best advice is to make sure your yards are clear of rubble, garden cuttings and other objects that would attract a snake's main food source (rats, mice, etc).

What to do if one sees a snake: Keep an eye on it and phone or post a message on any of the WhatsApp groups. If I am available then I will assist. If not, then I will notify one of the other registered snake catchers in the area.

Apart from snakes, we were also able to release a few tortoises over the past few months.

From an environmental law enforcement perspective, we have noticed an increase in poaching activity in our bush area

SAGE MATTERS – A NOTE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR, Lerryn Mew

Well, we have certainly had an interesting year on the finance side. I think at one stage there were a few folks looking for my address to have some very stern words with me.

I thank you one and all for all of your patience as we switched over to a professional system generously sponsored by Braddon (Network Associates); please support our Summerstrand locals. **Network Associates** has been a leading Sage Pastel Business Partner in the Eastern Cape and Garden Route since 2001 and offer a range of Sage Pastel software which is easy to use, and affordable and will meet the needs of any size organisation.

There are still a few wrinkles that we are attending to and I thank those who took the time to contact me so we can sort them out. If there are any issues with your account, please let me know and I will be only too happy to assist you.

Payment References:

Please use your name and surname as the payment reference, not the invoice number if at all possible.

Monthly vs Annual Payments:

Should you prefer to make an annual payment instead of a monthly payment, then just send me an email and I will sort that out for you. You will then get one invoice a year from us when your next payment is due.



Debit Orders:

From next year (2024), we will be able to offer you a debit order option for your payments (monthly or annual). As soon as this service comes into effect, I will let you know and those who would prefer to make use of this service, would just send me an email and we can set it in motion.

Non Payers:

There are quite a few folk who for various reasons have outstanding amounts. I am slowly working my way down the list and making contact. You are also more than welcome to make contact with me, so we can find a way to assist and move forward. We are sensitive to the fact that we have some residents who are not best placed financially at this time and we are happy to work with them.

Kind Regards
Lerryn Mew
(Administrator & your local Real Estate Agent)

BAG SCRATCHERS AND VAGRANTS

Bag scratchers were searched at Sasol Garage. We looked at house numbers, letterboxes, water meters, cables, etc. Again, we request that all residents please put bags out on a Monday and NOT a Sunday. In addition, we have been telling the waste merchant that we do not want them coming into our suburbs to pay bag scratchers for their bottle cans, etc.



Pictures below show the removal of vagrants from Kings Beach and Pollock Beach, behind the Lifesaving Club.





Contact Us

Scan the code to become a member:



Mail: ssnwatch@gmail.com

Mobile: 083 278 3772

Please support our social media accounts:

Twitter: [@SSNWatch](https://twitter.com/SSNWatch)

Instagram: [@SSNWatch](https://www.instagram.com/SSNWatch)

Facebook: Summerstrand Neighbourhood Watch

Website: www.ssnwatch.co.za

