



The view at the Eden NHW Brand Launch held in George on 19 August 2019.



The Napier NHW exhibiting at the Overberg Brand Launch in Caledon on 28 October 2019.

NHW BRAND LAUNCHED IN EDEN, CAPE WINELANDS AND OVERBERG

Chantell Hendricks

The new Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) brand strategy was launched by Minister of Community Safety, Albert Fritz, with the support of the departmental Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) team.

The launch took place in George on Monday 19 August and in Robertson and Caledon on 16 and 28 October respectively. NHWs in these areas also received accreditation certificates.

The brand launch and accreditation ceremonies form part of the Department's initiatives to professionalise NHWs and in an effort to increase community participation, create safer neighbourhoods and change perceptions of safety in communities as obligated by section 6 of the Western Cape Community Safety Act.

Safety stakeholders such as NHW's and Emergency Medical Services were also given the opportunity to exhibit their products or best practices. The importance of professionalising volunteerism was outlined using the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) as a case study followed by a handover of certificates and starter kits to accredited NHW structures. NHW members were enthusiastic, committed and open to receiving information from the various stakeholders and the panel members during the panel discussion.

Minister Fritz said, "The NHW project evolved rapidly over the past few years. On 1 October 2016, the Act was promulgated, allowing the Department to formally begin accrediting NHWs in the Western Cape. A new training manual was developed for NHWs in 2017. In 2018, funding for Accredited NHWs was approved and implemented. This brings us to



The Ceres Community Police Forum exhibiting the Cape Winelands Brand Launch in Robertson on 16 October 2019.

2019 when the new NHW Brand and communication strategy was launched at the River Club in Observatory on 28 March 2019. The roll-out of the brand and certification ceremonies showcasing growth and development are currently in progress."

The introduction of our new brand shows our commitment to changing the old positioning and stigmas of the NHW. The aim of the brand roll-out is to create safer neighbourhoods and increase perceptions of safety in communities and to build community cohesion amongst NHW structures.

Minister Fritz calls for the South African Police Service (SAPS) to work closely with local NHW structures in a more coordinated and responsive manner. The role of a NHW is to act as the eyes and ears of the SAPS.

EDEN



CAPE WINELANDS





NHW'S IN MOSSEL BAY PARTNER WITH CPF TO TEST NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION, ANALYTICAL AND OVERVIEW CAMERAS

The Mossel Bay Community Police Forum (CPF) along with four accredited NHWs in Mossel Bay (Lower Town, Bo Dorp, Heiderand and Da Nova) partnered to test the operation of cameras with an analytical and number plate recognition technology.

Testing took place for three weeks during June 2019. The cameras were set-up in George Road in order to determine the quality and specifications to provide proper surveillance to the area.

This project will form part of the establishment of a multi-functional/disciplinary control room at an approximate cost of R7.5 million. The test run was a success and the role-players could familiarise themselves with the monitoring function of the camera. The project has been identified as top priority for Mossel Bay and the surrounding areas. It will benefit the community in the following ways:

- 24-hour surveillance of the areas including activity in the central business district;
- Pro-active policing initiatives;
- suspect vehicles and persons entering the Mossel Bay area linked to other areas between Port Elizabeth and Cape Town will be identified and notification sent to relevant authorities

The cost will come to approximately R 1 200 000 for the purchase and installation of the 15 cameras. Thereafter there will be a monthly cost of R 12 000 for monitoring the cameras. The committee is currently busy with various initiatives to raise the funds for this project. Mossel Bay Safety Initiative (MSI), a non-profit organisation, has been formed, which is aligned with the CPF with public benefit status. For more information, contact Leon van Dyk, Chairperson of Mossel Bay CPF on 082 651 6228.

Ameerah Kenny



From left: Elmarie Landman (Heiderand NHW), Lt. Col. September (Station Commander) Elain Glow (Da Nova NHW), Martie Loubser (Onder Dorp NHW), Leon van Dyk (Bo Dorp NHW and Mossel Bay CPF Chairperson) and Andre from the camera company on 26 June 2019.

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF UBUNTU WITH A BLANKET DRIVE

Ameerah Kenny

To embrace the spirit of Ubuntu and to give back to the needy in their area, Kenwyn residents embarked on a blanket drive on Friday 5 July 2019 at the Woodbury Park in Kenwyn. The drive was organised by the Kenwyn Neighbourhood Watch (KNW), a registered non-governmental organisation that conducts patrols in the area in an effort to ensure the safety of the residents. Concerned residents came together and collected blankets for the destitute and homeless. They also prepared and sold food in an attempt to generate additional funds for the NHW. KNW chairperson Abdullah Fakier said their mandate is to serve the community. They have 44 members that patrol the area and are all vetted by the South African Police Services (SAPS).



The blankets collected at the Kenwyn NHW blanket drive on 5 July 2019.

GIVING BACK IN THE SPIRIT OF MADIBA

Ameerah Kenny

The Table View Neighbourhood Watch hosted a very well attended vehicle patrol on the evening of 18 July 2019 coinciding with Mandela Day. Approximately 120 to 140 people participated in the patrol; 80 to 90 patrollers were out on the road, control room operators and about 50 people from other organisations that they work hand in hand with to keep the area safe. Participating organisations amongst others was the Table View Police Station, Law Enforcement, Community Medics, Fire and Rescue and local armed response companies.

Participants enjoyed some warm soup and a sarmie made by the volunteers and some local companies in the area. Cupcakes were also donated by West Riding Primary School, which was quite a treat. Donations of non-perishable items, clothing, sanitary and hygiene items as well as dog food were collected and taken back to the control room to be handed over to charities such as SALT, Little Lambs and Pit-Pals.

The chairman Grant Lemos opened the patrol with a short introduction and explained how excited he was to have the TVNW YOUTH programme up and running, exclaiming that we all need to be an example (as Madiba was) to our children.



Members of the Table View NHW gathered for a vehicle patrol on 18 July 2019 in commemoration of Mandela Day.

FAQs

This feature aims to address questions you may have with regard to the running and operations of your respective NHWs.

Do NHWs receive funding from government?

Yes. Once you are approved for accreditation, you become eligible to benefit from the Department of Community Safety. In terms of the benefits, you will qualify for training (which is free of charge), a basic NHW Starter Kit (items may vary) and funding as determined by the department.

Can NHW members place white lights on their cars?

Yes. NHWs are allowed to use white lights on their patrol vehicles. The lights must be static and strobe lights can only be used when they are parked at the scene of an incident.

May the South African Police Service (SAPS) ban a NHW, or prevent its members from patrolling?

SAPS may only do so if the NHW is breaking a law. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa gives residents very specific rights, including the rights of free movement and freedom of association. NHWs are active citizens who care about safety.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES IN CAPE GET ACCREDITED

Ameerah Kenny

On 19 September 2019 the Department of Community Safety held an accreditation ceremony in Goodwood to recognise twenty-nine newly accredited Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) structures. The Minister of Community Safety, Albert Fritz, calls on all NHW structures to ensure that they are accredited.

The ceremony included an overview of the accreditation of NHWs, a presentation on the new NHW brand, a demonstration on the new NHW on-line application system and the new communication and reporting platform being piloted for NHWs, a talk on the SAPS and NHW's partnership and a handover of certificates and starter kits. This event was aimed at acknowledging and recognising the efforts of these heroic NHWs and their members.

Minister Fritz said: "The Department of Community Safety is mandated in terms of Section 6 (Accreditation and Support of Neighbourhood Watches) of the Western Cape Community Safety Act (WCCSA) of 2013 to formally accredit and support NHWs within the Western Cape upon application. I call on all NHW structures to apply and ensure that they are accredited with the Department of Community Safety."

Upon approval of accreditation, a NHW is issued with an accreditation certificate which is valid for two years and must be renewed three months prior to its expiration to ensure that the accreditation does not lapse. Once accredited, NHWs qualify for free training, resources and funding from the Department.

Minister Fritz further added: "Upon accreditation, NHW structures will benefit further from a R10 000 funding allocation to assist them with their operational and administration costs which can include purchasing additional resources. Accreditation of NHWs facilitates uniformity, cohesion and information sharing between all NHW structures. Our NHWs play a vitally important role in safeguarding the province as they act as the eyes and ears of our communities."

People think they have to have a very specific set of skills to be an effective and active member of their Neighbourhood Watch. **You're more qualified than you think.** Everyone has a skill, passion or trait that Neighbourhood Watch needs. **We don't just need patrollers, we need watchers. We need administrators, financial wizards, we need bakers for the monthly meet and greets.** You don't have to go and catch criminals yourself, **the Neighbourhood Watch is about being connected to a bigger network that together is able to ensure a safer community.**



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the **Neighbourhood Watch Helpline**

Tel: 021 483 7813

Email: Neighbourhood.Watch@westerncape.gov.za

Website: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/neighbourhood-watch-nhw>

Operating Office Hours: 07:00 – 16:00

To set-up a meeting with the NHW Team:

- Members of the public must make an appointment telephonically at 021 483 7813 / (021) 483 7855 to confirm a date and time.
- Appointments will be scheduled on a first-come first-serve basis.
- No walk-ins will be allowed as meeting rooms must be arranged in advance.

This bulletin is brought to you by the Western Cape Department of Community Safety.



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