

Launch of the Neighbourhood Watch Communication Strategy and Safety Brand

The Neighbourhood Watch celebrated the official launch of the project's latest communications strategy and safety brand on Thursday, 28 March 2019 at the River Club in Observatory.

The celebration attracted the attendance of numerous accredited NHW structures from around the Western Cape and multiple exhibitions by safety concerned stakeholders such as South African Police Services, Emergency Medical Services, City of Cape Town amongst others, working hand-in-hand to ensure safety within the Western Cape.



Accreditation of 29 New Neighbourhood Watches will strengthen crime fighting efforts



On Friday, 12 April 2019, 33 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) structures attended the accreditation certification ceremony, which was held in Goodwood, Cape Town. Of the 33 accreditations, 29 are new, while 4 were renewed. This brings the total accredited NHWs in the Western Cape to 338.

Some of the new NHWs include Blikkiesdorp in Delft, Moses Street from Cloeteville in Stellenbosch, Baseline in Paarl, Mothers of Hope in Philippi, Bridgewater from Somerset West and Red Zone in Grassy Park.

The four NHWs that renewed their accreditation, are Chrismar from Bellville, Parklands from Milnerton, Zoo Park from Kraaifontein and Echo from Delft.

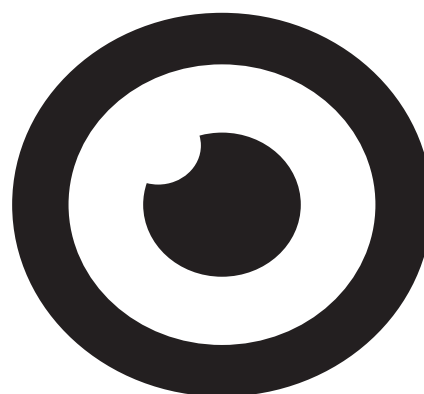
The new NHW brand was presented on screen and exhibited in the hall. NHW members were informed that the objective of the brand is to portray a professional image. Community volunteers continue to play a critical role in combatting local crime. Each NHW structure received a starter kit, which consists of padlocks, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, reflective bibs, torches, safety whistles, strobe lights and vehicle decals, while each patrolling member received a t-shirt, with the brand new logo.

During the recent launch of the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Volunteerism campaign a commitment was made to ensuring that our NHWs are professionalised. The provision of the Starter Kit is to support NHWs to create safer environments and communities in which crime is minimised, thereby improving safety within their areas. The ultimate goal is to ensure that accredited NHWs become more functional, accountable and capable partners who will actively contribute towards safety within communities.

The 2017/18 crime statistics, shows that through the visibility of NHWs in communities, property-related crimes, which includes residential and business burglary and car theft, were reduced by 6,8%.

Highway Mountainside Neighbourhood Watch awards local security company

Security company, Combat Force, was named the best security company by the Highway Mountainside Neighbourhood Watch. This comes after continued success by their juncture with the watch team and community members in retaining safety in the Highway Mountainside area. The Highway Mountainside NHW issued a certificate of appreciation to the chairman of Combat Force for their tireless contribution to policing which comprises donations of cameras and proactive communication lines and reporting; all of which have resulted in the notable improvement of the area's safety.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Helderzicht resident awarded motorised wheelchair

Mr Wyman October, of Helderzicht, was the proud receiver of a motorised wheelchair, valued at R18 000, following a series of fundraising attempts by the Paardevlei Neighbourhood Watch as part of the Wyman's Wheelchair Community Project. An operation to cure a bout of meningitis left Mr October paralyzed at just 14 years old.

The Basic Neighbourhood Watch Training Session

As part of the NHW Accreditation and Support Programme, the Western Cape Department of Community Safety (DoCS) offers a two-day basic NHW training course. The training is provided within communities throughout the Western Cape at a community hall within the area. Training is free of charge and all logistics relating to training and catering is provided by DoCS.

This training module is the first step towards developing a comprehensive curriculum for NHWs and is an entry-level or "Basic Training" which is compulsory for all NHWs in the Province. This NHW training is viewed as the "Orientation" phase of NHW training. In the future, the department plans to offer training to NHWs to address issues such as first responder training (First Aid Level 1) and basic firefighting training.



FAQs

This feature in the bulletin aims to address questions you may have with regard to the running and operations of your respective Neighbourhood Watches (NHW).

Q: Should NHWs have their own bank accounts?

A: In terms of Section 6 of the Western Cape Community Act of 2013, it is required that each NHW has its own bank account. The NHW must have three signatories in terms of Section 38 of the Public Finance Management Act (PMFA) (2000), before transferring any funds to an entity within or outside government, obtain written assurance that the entity implements effective, efficient and transparent financial management and internal control systems.

Q: Do NHW members have to log on with SAPS before they go on patrol?

A: If possible, as a courtesy. Permission from SAPS is not required to commence a patrol. All residents should try to work in partnership with their local police station.

Q: Can Community Police Forums instruct NHWs what to do?

A: CPFs don't have any direct control over NHWs. If a NHW or any NHW members are breaking any law, the CPF should certainly tell a NHW of its concerns. And, if necessary, report any illegal behaviour to police.

Direct any questions to <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/neighbourhood-watch-nhw>



Launch of the NHW Mobile Operational Centre

On Saturday, 25 May 2019 the Kraaifontein Sector 4B NHW launched the NHW Mobile Operational Centre during a Visibility and Awareness Drive at Monument Park High School. The Kraaifontein Sector 4B NHW revealed their newest asset for the first time during an Awareness and Visibility Drive with SAPS Mounted Unit and various Security Firms. The unit was received as a donation in the form of an old caravan which was revamped into a Safety Kiosk.

Mr Andre Theron, member of the Kraaifontein Sector 4B NHW shared their appreciation toward their sponsors; Cool Maintenance for the structure, CJ Cooling for all electrical supplies and work, Big & Small Signs for the branding, who so eagerly assisted with the structure, electrical and signage of the unit.

The kiosk will be used at NHW awareness campaigns, night patrols, fundraisers and events. It will also be used in joint operations with SAPS, Law Enforcement, Securities and other NHW's and could also be used if disasters occur. The Kraaifontein Sector 4B NHW is proud to showcase new developments in operations to stand up against and fight crime. Another initiative made possible through joint efforts in the restoration of safety within the Western Cape.



The Neighbourhood Watch Accreditation Ceremony

The Neighbourhood Watch engagement and accreditation took place at the Velddrif Town Hall in Velddrif on Friday, 14 June 2019. The new NHW brand was presented and structures received various apparel and starter kits.

For more information on the NHW Accreditation and Support Programme, please contact:
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Tel: 021 483 7813
Email: Neighbourhood.Watch@westerncape.gov.za

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



BETTER TOGETHER.

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