



# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

June 1st ,2024

[www.ballitonw.org.za](http://www.ballitonw.org.za)

ISSUE 01

## KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON OUR COMMUNITY



### A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Neighbours,

I hope this, our first quarterly newsletter, finds you all in good health and high spirits. As the Chairman of our Ballito Neighbourhood Watch, I am delighted to have the opportunity to connect with each and every one of you through this platform.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to all the dedicated members of our Neighbourhood Watch Committee members and our Patrollers who have been working tirelessly to assist in the safety and security of our community. Your commitment and vigilance are truly commendable, and I am honored to be leading such a dedicated team. A huge thank you as well to Alpha Security, Chapman Security, Fidelity ADT Security, IPSS Security, Marshall Security and UIP for your control rooms and reaction officers assistance and back up as and when required.

In these challenging times, it is more important than ever to come together as a community and look out for one another. Our Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in fostering a sense of unity and security within our neighbourhood. By keeping a watchful eye on our surroundings, reporting suspicious activities, and sharing important information, we can create a safer environment for ourselves and our loved ones.

We will be sharing updates on recent incidents, crime prevention tips, and upcoming events organized by our Neighbourhood Watch. We will also provide information on how you can get involved and contribute to the safety of our community.

I encourage every one of you to actively participate in our initiatives. By attending our community meetings, joining our patrol teams, or simply staying informed and vigilant, your involvement can make a significant difference in maintaining the security of our neighbourhood. Please stay connected and communicate with your neighbours. Building strong relationships and fostering a sense of community is key to preventing crime and ensuring the well-being of all residents.

Lastly, I want to assure you that your safety and security are our top priorities. We are committed to working closely with local law enforcement agencies, the ward CPFs and security companies implementing effective crime prevention strategies, and addressing any concerns or issues that may arise. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our Neighbourhood Watch. Together, we can create a safe and thriving community that we can all be proud to call home. Stay safe, stay vigilant, and let's make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Morné Steffens, Chairman, Ballito Neighbourhood Watch



# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch



## ADOPT A PATROLLER

Our dedicated team of BNW patrollers patrol the residential areas of Ballito every night in their own vehicles at their own cost. They monitor and report issues to local security companies. This team of volunteers work in two-hour shifts throughout the night.

Many are willing to patrol but struggle with fuel costs to do so. We are therefore asking residents who are not able to patrol at night, to adopt a patroller.

This can be done through donating what you can afford towards fuel for these individuals, whatever you can afford and whenever you can afford.

For more information, contact [treasurer@ballitonw.org.za](mailto:treasurer@ballitonw.org.za) or call Madeleine Hayhurst on 084 242 2566





# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## ADOPT A PATROLLER

Neighbourhood Watch patrols are groups of community members who volunteer to keep an eye on their neighbourhood and report any suspicious activities or concerns to our local security companies and the authorities. These patrols aim to enhance the safety and security of the community by promoting a sense of unity and vigilance among residents. Neighbourhood watch patrols typically involve regular night time patrols of the area, observing and reporting any unusual or suspicious activities, notifying security companies of client gates or doors left open and working closely with local law enforcement agencies and the CPF to address any issues that may arise.

As you are no doubt aware, the rising cost of living and fuel prices are making it difficult for some of our Patrollers to continue patrolling as they simply can not longer afford the fuel costs, leaving us as residents more vulnerable.

If you want to do something for your community and Neighbourhood Watch but can't physically be involved in patrols, we would appreciate if you are able to donate something towards fuel costs for those that can no longer afford to carry on. This can be done once a month, as a once off or as and when you are able to do so, any amount, no matter how much, will make a difference to this worthy cause and greatly appreciated.

Simply make a donation into the BNW bank account reference PATROLLER. See our banking below.

### EFT Details

**Standard Bank – Ballito**

**Account Name – Ballito Neighbourhood Watch**

**Branch Code – 040027**

**Account Number – 034513159**

**Reference – Patroller**

**Please send proof of payment to [treasurer@ballitonw.org.za](mailto:treasurer@ballitonw.org.za)**



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**Web : [www.ballitonw.org.za](http://www.ballitonw.org.za) Email : [secretary@ballitonw.org.za](mailto:secretary@ballitonw.org.za)**



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# BALLITO PET FOOD DRIVE



The BNW is assisting Animally Haven with a pet food drive on **SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2024**

They are desperate for food for their rescue dogs, cats, chickens and pigs!

If you can donate pet food, please leave your donation outside your gate at **10 O'CLOCK SHARP FOR US TO COLLECT.**



The BNW support various charities through our effective Whatsapp Street Cluster Groups as a medium to reach the residents of Ballito. An ongoing project that is very close to the BNW is supporting Animally Haven, a animal rescue centre situated just outside Ballito, offering a peaceful place for animals that would otherwise have faced death.

ANIMALLY HAVEN is a Non-Profit Company that was founded in 1999 by Gianna Scoulelis who is very passionate about giving animals who have come from unwanted, abused and neglected situations a second chance at living a better quality life in a safe place. ANIMALLY HAVEN is a no-kill sanctuary where euthanasia is only considered in rare cases of incurable suffering. They provide a compassionate, pro-life and homely environment for their residents, who have either been too badly abused to be re-homed, been passed from pillar to post too often, were hours away from being put to sleep because they couldn't be homed or have special needs. All residents are sterilised, vaccinated, dewormed and medicated or taken to a veterinary clinic when necessary.

This sanctuary relies on donations and has been struggling post- Covid to make ends meet with a number of their sponsors falling away. That's where the BNW come into play asking residents to open assist in supplying food for those that rely on us as people. There is a pet food drive this Saturday 10am where we ask residents to leave petfood outside their front gates at 10am sharp and we will collect and send off to Animally Haven.



# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Ballito Neighbourhood Watch is open to all residents of Ballito. The cost is R250 per annum, per household. This will enable three members of your household to register under your household subscription. We rely heavily on membership fees to fund community projects and expenses. These include but are not limited to the funding of Sniper ANPR Cameras they serve to identify Stolen or Wanted Vehicles. This System has proven very successful. Painting of House numbers on the Roadside of Driveways to help Responders find your Home without Delay in an Emergency. Various Donations to SAPS Umhlali latest being a VoIP Phonenumber ensuring that SAPS always has a working line to receive calls from the Community.

Join the Ballito Neighbourhood Watch today and assist in making your neighbourhood safer.

Benefits of Membership : Access to our WhatsApp Emergency Group that is constantly monitored by Security and Medical Emergency Company's to provide assistance without Delay. Members also receive our quarterly Newsletter where we provide Information relevant to Security Developments in Ballito.

As a member of BNW you may wish to get further involved by Volunteering as: Patroller, Help with Outreach Programs, Join the BNW Committee

Sign up at : [www.ballitonw.co.org](http://www.ballitonw.co.org)

Payment via EFT, Credit Card or Zapper

EFT Details

Standard Bank – Ballito

Account Name – Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

Branch Code – 040027

Account Number – 034513159

Reference – Use Name & Surname

Please send proof of payment to [treasurer@ballitonw.org.za](mailto:treasurer@ballitonw.org.za)

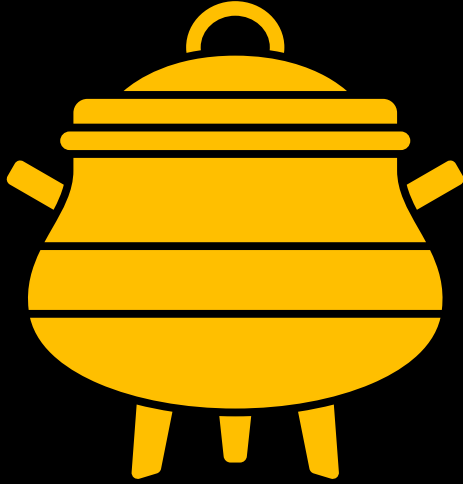


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# ANNUAL POTJIE COMPETITION

**2 NOVEMBER 2024**

The BNW Committee is hard at work planning and getting all the relevant authorisations in place for the 4th Annual BNW Potjie Competition hosted in Townsend Park on the 2nd November.

The event has proven to be a great success and extremely popular with competitors and visitors alike and growing year on year.

Local companies all cook up a storm on the day (rain or shine) competing for the coveted Best Potjie, Best Team Spirit or Best Dressed Stand trophies. Residents pay R50 for a scrumptious bowl of potjie while the children can partake in fun activities giving Mom and Dad a bit of free time while listening to lively music, our VERY vocal compère, Dave, partaking in the lively auction or just soaking up the neighbourhood vibe, a date not to be missed.

Competition entries is now open to businesses to register, if your company is interested to compete this year, we work on a first come, first serve basis, and space is limited.

Contact our Treasurer, Jenny, for more information on [treasurer@ballitonw.org.za](mailto:treasurer@ballitonw.org.za)

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# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

## MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Ambulance	10177 / 032 437 5570
Ballito Control Room	032 437 5570
Life Guards Ballito	032 946 8029 / 032 946 8000
SAPS Umhlali	032 947 9900 / 032 061 0333
Police: Emergency	10111
Crime Block	086 110 1095
Traffic & Crime	032 946 8000

## SECURITY SERVICES

Alpha Security	0861 125 742
Chapman Security	061 542 4850
IPSS Security	0861 324 777
Marshall Security	0861 627 732
Mega Force Security	0861 634 222
Chubb Security	0861 031 911
Fidelity ADT	086 1212 300

## ANIMAL EMERGENCIES:

SPCA Emergency	031 261 6509
Ezemvelo Wildlife Office	033 845 1000
Aloe Veterinary Clinic	032 946 2813
	A/H: 061 884 1993
Ballito Vet Hospital	032 946 2052
Monkey Helpline	Carol – 082 411 5444
	Steve – 082 659 4711
Snakes	Neville 082 561 4969
(Ndlondlo Reptile Park)	Helen 079 453 3557
	(There Is A Call Out Fee)

## AREA EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Medi Response	084 834 9999
IPSS Medical	082 391 1911
Sea Rescue	031 361 8567
Mountain Rescue	031 307 7744
Fire Brigade	031 361 0000
Emergency Response Unit	031 361 0000
Tourist Protection Unit	031 368 2207
Child Protection Unit	031 307 7000
Child Line	0800 055 555
Rape Crisis Centre	031 312 2323
Rise Up Movement	
Gender Violence Support	068 024 7568
Life Line	031 312 2323
Electricity Faults	0801 313 111
Telephone Faults	10212
DOCCRA	064 737 2269
Ballito UIP	086 111 1588

## WATER EMERGENCIES

Siza Water	032 946 2088
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## ELECTRICAL FAULTS

Electrical Faults	032 551 3413
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## COMMUNITY SAFETY

KDM Community Safety	060 714 3764
Reporting of drinking on beaches, traffic issues, fire services etc. Ensure that you get an OR number	



# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## CRIME REPORT

The first half of 2024 have seen a decrease in criminal activity in our residential area in comparison to last year this time. Ballito is in a very fortunate position where the crime we are experiencing is 99% petty theft without endangering residents or their pets. We are fortunate to have a core team of Patrollers that patrol our area to assist in ensuring that our residents are kept safe when most vulnerable, in bed and sound asleep). The majority of cases where items are stolen is due to lack of security and in many cases of the mindset that they will not fall victim to crime. And then we are extremely blessed that we have some world class security companies servicing our area, always ready to assist the Neighbourhood Watch and our residents. The sheer dedication of the security companies, our Ward CPFs, the UIP, SAPS and KDM Metro all play a pivotal role in keeping Ballito residents relatively crime free.

Unfortunately, the majority of theft and house break ins occur due to negligence of residents. Bedroom and bathroom windows are left open, often giving perpetrators an opportunity to enter properties, cell phones left on bedside units next to open windows within arm's length, home alarms and beams not set for example.

The BNW main aim is for residents to be the eyes and ears of the Community in order to report to the relevant authorities. If you notice suspicious activity, feel threatened, report either on the BNW Incident Report group (if a BNW member) or on your street cluster group. We have a number of people retired, working from home etc, so even during the day, keep an eye out for potential issues and report.

### CRIME STATS FROM 1 JANUARY 2024

#### January :

- 4 Break ins/ theft
- 1 Attempted break in

#### February :

- 3 Break ins/ theft
- 3 Attempted break ins
- 1 stolen vehicle
- 1 armed attempted break in
- 1 mugging

#### March:

- 3 break ins/ theft
- 2 attempted break ins
- 1 external lights stolen from home

#### April :

- 2 break ins/ theft
- 1 gas bottle stolen from garden

#### May:

- Numerous break ins/ theft and attempted break ins in the Zen Drive/ Jacqueline Road areas
- The perpetrator responsible for the incidents in Zen Drive and Jacqueline Drive was caught and arrested on 30.05.2024





# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## BELOW ARE SOME SAFETY TIPS FROM SAPS TO AID IN SECURING YOUR LOVED ONES AND PROPERTY:

### FENCES/WALLS

- A high fence around the house with lockable gates, is much safer than a high wall due to the advantage of the improved visibility it provides.
- The primary aim of the fence is to make access/intrusion difficult and to allow dogs to move freely around the house.
- Ensure that your gates are locked at all times and that the keys cannot be reached easily and are not lying around uncontrolled.
- Security gates with sturdy locks in front of each outer door as well as burglar proofing covering all windows, are recommended.
- The following devices prevent easy access:
  - Window bars, Security doors, Security gates, Razor wire
  - Additional locking devices on doors
  - Strengthening of doors, Peepholes in the doors, Safety chains to doors
  - Intercom system between the home and gate, front door or garage

### ALARM SYSTEMS

- An alarm system, preferably connected to an armed response company, can act as an effective deterrent.
- In the rural environment a siren/alarm on the roof that can be heard over a long distance and that can be activated by means of a switch/panic button in the house, is recommended.
- A few switches/panic buttons in different rooms of the house should preferably be installed.
- an alarm must also have the capability to warn the occupants of any intrusion into the house.
- Examples of alarm systems:
  - Mechanical and/or electrical (purchased types), Improvised systems, Threaded tins, Threaded pieces of iron, Gravel on window panes, pathways or around the home, Obstacles that can make a noise when moved

### BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS:

Dogs, Geese, Ostriches

### SECURITY LIGHTS

- Security lights on the outside of the house improve the physical protection of a house, farm or smallholding.
- The lights must be directed away from the house and must allow the occupants to use the windows without being observed from outside.
- Be aware of possible shadows and blind spots.
- It is a very successful method of keeping an eye out for each other in your immediate vicinity.

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# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Ensure that all doors are locked at all times, and that windows are closed when you are not at home.
- Large dogs serve as a deterrent. At least one dog should be trained to sleep inside the house.
- If you leave your residence, inform your family/ neighbours of your intended destination, time you expect to return and the route you will be driving, especially if you reside in a rural area.
- Ensure that tools such as axes, spades, picks, ladders, etc that can be used in an attack, are locked away when you do not use them.
- Vary your daily routine.
- Get into the habit of not immediately falling asleep after switching off the lights.
- Remain awake for a while.
- You should not be visible in the bedroom from the outside when you are asleep.
- Always keep a torch nearby at night and when you use it, ensure that you do not give away your position.
- If you are unsure about the security status of your home after returning from work/a visit, eg your dogs do not come to the gate, do not enter your home.
- Contact your neighbour to assist you in securing your home.
- Identify relatively safe places of refuge, ie: bathroom, toilet or storeroom.
- The fewer windows and doors these rooms have, the better.
- Involve employees as they are part of the family/team.
- Employees must be involved in maintaining security on an equal footing.
- Report suspicious behaviour and information to the South African Police Service.
- Clear the areas around the gates of bushes and other hiding places.
- Take photographs of all employees.
- It could be to your advantage to identify them, if required.
- Remunerate your employees when useful information is provided that contribute to the prevention of crime.
- Do not employ casual workers without a reference.
- Keep copies of all your employees - Identity Documents (ID's).
- Ensure that you have a good relationship with your neighbours so that you will be in a good position to support and help each other.

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<https://www.facebook.com/BallitoNW>





# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## ACCESS AND KEY CONTROL

Do not allow strangers on your premises or in your house without having properly identifying the person, especially at night.

Implement proper key control measures.

Identify keys by means of codes instead of indicating in writing on labels to which gate/door access can be gained.

Keys to the safe must be kept on the person.

Never hide any keys in traditional places, such as in pot plants or under doormats.

Keys in the keyhole on the inside of the front or back door should be turned to avoid easy removal.

Never allow strangers to handle keys or look at key numbers.

Change locks when keys are lost.

insert barring devices in door locks.

Remove keys from doors when leaving.

## COMMUNICATION

There should be two systems for alternative back up:

Telephone

Cellular phone

Have the telephone installed where it is easily accessible from anywhere in the house.

Inform your children not to give an indication that adult supervision is not available when they answer the phone.

## STREET CLUSTER GROUPS

The BNW started Whatsapp Street Cluster Groups a number of years ago with the aim of residents reporting issues to the likes of street lights not working, potholes, overhanging trees and most importantly to report suspicious behaviour or to call for help if in need, these Cluster groups are looked after by Cluster Captains who in turn report back to a central cluster Group on issues in your road. Any communication from the BNW also gets fed to the street groups through your Cluster Captain. This is an initiative that is also enabling us to know of issues in areas to be able to help address those issues and to inform Security about. Please use the street groups for their intended purpose, the Cluster Captains do this voluntary and they do not have the time to monitor irrelevant chats all the time. It is a tool to report and in case of emergencies. Some streets set up a separate chat group for general discussions giving residents the option to opt in or not. Many residents do not want to be part of a general discussions group and would prefer to be on a emergencies only group. Chat to your Cluster Captain about these options. Check with your neighbours to see if they are on the street groups,



# Ballito Neighbourhood Watch

## MEET YOUR BALLITO NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE



**Mr Morne Steffens**  
Chairman



**Mr Lionel Stringer**  
Vice Chairman



**Mrs Di Timberlake**  
Secretary



**Mrs Jenny Steffens**  
Treasurer



**Mrs Maddy Hayhurst**  
Patrol Coordinator



**Mr Flip Helberg**  
ANPR Cameras



**Mrs Tash Wheal**  
Social Media



**Mrs Sam Basson**  
Photographer



**Mrs Jenni Helberg**  
Events/Projects



**Mr Chris Schuster**  
CPF/ Patrol Captain