

# Glen Austin Residents Association Weekly Newsletter



## Contact Details:

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eNewsletter

Sunday, 26 August 2012

Dear Members

It looks as if Spring has sprung. My fruit trees are in blossom, the birds are getting very frisky and the Clivias are in bloom. However I do have a picture of my fruit trees in full blossom last year with the ground covered in hail. Even up to September the temperatures can drop – so don't pack away those blankets yet.

Have you seen the Winter photos on the website – [click here to have a look](#).

There will be some voting issues coming up soon, so please [register on the website](#) and it is important to complete your Profile if you wish to be able to access all the information on the Website.  
[www.glenaustin.co.za](http://www.glenaustin.co.za)

## Useful Links:

[Midrand Sector 1 CPF Website](#)  
[Midrand Sector 1 CPF Facebook](#)  
[Midrand Forum Website](#)  
[Midrand Forum Facebook](#)  
[Mix 93.8 FM Website](#)  
[Mix 93.8 FM Facebook](#)  
[LookLocal Midrand Website](#)  
[LookLocal Midrand Facebook](#)

## Useful Numbers:

**Medical**  
Carstenhof Clinic : 011 655 5500

Midrand Medical Centre : 011 315 2512

Waterfall City Hospital : 011 304 6600

**Safety & Security**  
SAPS Sector 1  
Patrol Vehicle 1 : 071 675 6108

SAPS Sector 1  
Patrol Vehicle 2 : 071 675 6109

SAPS Sector 1  
Manager : 079 877 6528

SAPS Midrand : 011 347 1601  
: 011 347 1602  
: 011 347 1626

**COJ**  
Enquiries & complaints : 0800JOBURG

Fire & medical emergencies : 011 375 5911

JMPD Midrand : 011 256 7806

## eClassifieds:

## BREAKING NEWS CRIME REPORT



[Click here to view more Photos](#)

In an intelligence driven operation on Saturday evening the 25th of August 2012, W/O Reddy together with Ria Sebetsa Security Services and the Pretoria Dog Unit arrested a Nigerian Drug Dealer in Vorna Valley in possession of uncut CAT with an estimated value of R1.8 million.

[Click here to Read More](#)

## OLYMPICS



Did the Olympics touch Glen Austin – well yes, via me. Attached a picture of my daughter Zoe with the torch carried by Sir Steve Redgrave into the stadium at the opening ceremony as it was donated to the company she does work for. She is doing her Usain Bolt impression.

We wish the Para Olympics team well when their games start in a few days.

## SECTOR 1 - COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

### Crime Feedback

### Attempted Hijacking

Once again this rears its ugly head.

At approximately 19h50 on Thursday the 23rd of August 2012, I responded to a call on channel 1. From Errol at Cnr Van Riebeck and George streets regarding an attempted Hi Jacking in progress. Thanks to Henri, Anton, Mike (Wreckers), Urie (Axon) and myself for the quick response in attending to the distress call. Gareth manned the phone to contact SAPS.

An elderly lady entered the property and unknown to her, four individuals followed onto the property on foot. They then held her up and demanded the keys to the house.

[Click here to Read More](#)

## Wanted: Cottage / Flat to Rent

I'm looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom that's pet friendly in the area. Please contact me, Jerome King on 084 902 8336 or (011) 024 3826 or Email: [jerking27@gmail.com](mailto:jerking27@gmail.com)

This could be your ad, send your request to [info@glenaustrin.co.za](mailto:info@glenaustrin.co.za)

## Events Calendar:

**Meeting with Orhan Celik, Project Manager at the Mosqueat** - Tuesday, 28 August 2012 at 16:00 - regarding the noise. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Spring Day Breakfast** - Saturday 1 September, 2012. The Conservancy will have a breakfast down at the Glen Austin pan - any time from 7:30 AM onwards - probably until 9:30AM. [Click here to read more.](#)

**A Women's Month Dinner** - Viva Espana Restaurant at the Constantia Hotel will be hosting a special dinner to celebrate Women's month on Friday evening, August 31. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Midrand Family Day** - Midrand Kids bring your Mum & Dad or your Guardian to enjoy a Day of Fun with our Community Support Structures Date: 01st September 2012. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Animals in Distress Fundraiser** - 13 September 2012 - Enjoy a great evening at The Brazenhead, Leaping Frog, Fourways and support The Society for Animals in Distress at the same time. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Hobby X** - Gallagher Estate 10am to 5pm on 6 - 9 September 2012 - Hobby-X is coming to Midrand - South Africa's favourite hobby and craft exhibition is coming to Midrand from 6 to 9 September. [Click here to read more.](#)

[Click here to View the Events Calendar on the GARA Website.](#)

## A big call for our the community to be more aware of their surroundings and increase their security lighting around their entrances to their properties.

A new trend has emerged in our sector. Crimes are being committed between the hours of 8am and 6pm be aware and alert.

Our Sector 1 Police under Steve Johnstone are doing a fabulous job trying to rid Glen Austin of crime, but you still need to be aware when driving home and again take a good look at your property security as if you were a thief. Locate the weak spots and just make it more difficult for a burglary to take place.

We do get reports of break ins and then it evolves that the property has no alarm system, no burglar bars, no beams or electric fence. We still see property gates left open 24/7. Under these circumstances - please don't moan if you are broken into.

**PLEASE EMAIL STEVEN DIRECT WITH ANY SECURITY REPORTS, I.E. BURGLARIES, HIJACKINGS ETC. IN GLEN AUSTIN ON [stevenjo@webmail.co.za](mailto:stevenjo@webmail.co.za)**



[Click Me! Click Me!](#)

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED ON THE WEBSITE?

[www.glenaustrin.co.za](http://www.glenaustrin.co.za)

## OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS TO ANY REZONING APPLICATIONS TO COJ

I think we are so used to sending sms's and emails that we have forgotten certain important things when sending a letter.

1. Date the letter
2. Put your postal address on the letter.
3. Sign the letter

All the letters I have received to pass on to the COJ are not dated and some are signed with just a cell number. You need to put your postal address, otherwise how is the COJ ever going to respond to you if they need to.

## GLEN AUSTIN CONSERVANCY

You may have seen bags and notices on poles in the area to place your rubbish in. The Conservancy are trying to clean up the area on an on-going basis and it seems to be working.

The Parks Department seem to be planting trees all over the place, but without stakes. If there is one outside your property without a stake, please put one in so the tree can grow nice and straight. GARA has complained to the Parks Department about lack of stakes, but they insist the public are stealing the stakes - pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeez!

## VERY POOR ATTENDANCE @ BLOCK WATCH MEETING

An appeal was sent out to All Residents earlier this week to attend a Block Watch Meeting on Saturday the 25th of August 2012 at 16:00 in Modderfontein Road. In an attempt to bring the Block Watch back on track. Only a handful of dedicated Residents (the one's always offering their time to make our community a safer and better place) showed up.

Even with the alarming rising of crime in our area, hijackings, burglaries, etc. people just don't seem to care. What's wrong with our Community, have we lapsed into a mentality that - "it won't happen to me" or "I'll take care of my own safety" or "I don't care about my neighbour". Will it take another murder in the area to get everyone



mobilised again? We appeal to all Residents, look around you, be Aware, be Vigilant and start Caring, cause this Can Happen To You!



It seems to me that the community are not interested in participating in community security initiatives. It appears that they want to rely on the few members of the community that are active within Glen Austin and Midrand area to keep them safe. We also have families and business commitments and need to share the load between all community members, for the benefit of all - this is LEAD SA!

Sector 1 which includes Glen Austin, President Park, Glen Austin Ext 3 and Ranjiesfontien is being targeted for crime. Last week there was a double Hi-jacking, Wednesday evening an attempted Hi-jacking, Saturday morning an armed robbery in George Road and numerous house robberies all within Glen Austin. We respond to a majority of these incidents with the help of a dedicated team BUT we need more assistance from the community.

I would like to thank the community members that did attend the meeting: Bruce Beavers, Gareth Slade, James Candy, Glenn Sheppard, Henri and Andriette Ferreira, W/O Reddy, Ria Sebetsa Security Services and Axon Security.

Contact Steven Johnstone on 082-850-6344 or email [stevenjo@webmail.co.za](mailto:stevenjo@webmail.co.za)

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## GATED COMMUNITIES

GARA does not have any involvement with the operations of the Gated Communities but we can inform you that: -

BLOCK 5 – will be going forward with their next stage of cameras and will be sending out a communication soon. (George Road in the North to Donovan Road in the South and Rosies Place in the West to Allan Road in the East).

BLOCK 4 & 6 - (Olifantsfontein Road in the North to Dale Road in the South and Allan Road in the West to Van Riebeeck Road in the East)

If you are within this block please send an email to [gcblock46@gmail.com](mailto:gcblock46@gmail.com) and send her your full details or visit the Block 4 & 6 website - [www.gcblock46.co.za](http://www.gcblock46.co.za) as they are trying to reach the 2/3rds of residents to agree to the closure to enable them to go forward to the next stage of the application.

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## COMPLAINTS – BURNING RUBBISH OR GRASS



Again we are receiving complaints about burning rubbish, and other violations of by laws. Residents seem not to understand why these by laws are in place.

Burning rubbish on open plots or on your own plot is illegal due to the fact that it is air pollution and there is a very big risk that the fire can get out of control or cinders can be blown by the wind onto thatched roofs. Thatched properties can burn down in minutes and this has happened in Glen Austin on more than on occasion.

Therefore, Bin, Bury or Recycle – NEVER BURN.

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## NOTICES / REMINDERS

**GARA reminds** you that it cannot complain on your behalf regarding problems in Glen Austin. You have to register your complaint with the Council 0800 JOBURG, following the prompts for the right department and get a reference number and then if nothing happens, let us have the reference number and we can follow it up. DON'T THINK SOMEBODY ELSE WILL REPORT IT!

**Illegal Signage:** If you see any signs that do not display the sticker from the City of Joburg showing the advertiser has paid to advertise, these can be taken down. Estate Agent signs have to be outside the property actually for sale, nowhere else.

**Waiting for a New Wheely Bin** - [Click here to view the notice from Pick it Up.](#)

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## **RATES DEBACLE AND SUBMITTED OBJECTIONS TO THE CITY OF JOBURG**

All those delivered to me were submitted by Laverne Young of the DA to the City of Joburg, and she is currently sorting out the receipts. Will let you know when we have them.

We are saddened that GARA helped many, many Non Members with their Rates problems, spending hundreds of hours on the phone and face to face with people who wanted help, but regrettably they have not joined GARA. Therefore in future when there is another such crisis we may only help fully paid up members. Was our assistance not worth R5 a week?

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## **CITY OF JOBURG STATEMENTS – FURTHER BLUNDERS**

We are receiving complaints that the July Statements are showing a sewage charge of R418.81. Please lodge a complaint at the Peoples Centre or on 0800JOBURG as Glen Austin does not have any Sewage services. Let GARA know if you have received such a bill on your statement as we are looking into the matter.

Apparently Glen Austin is not the only Agricultural Holdings area to be affected.

Also the statements are showing nil property size and /or nil value and so Pick it Up also shows nil charge. Don't forget they will catch up and so put that money on one side for Pick it Up.

As we get on top of one problem, another raises its ugly head! GARA will give you feedback as soon as it is received from the Director of Rates and Taxes.

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**That's a round up for this week.**

**And**

Why we love children:

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part of the story where Chicken Little tried to warn the farmer. She read, '..... and so Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling, the sky is falling!"

The teacher paused and then asked the class, "And what do you think the farmer said?"

One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said: 'Shit! A talking chicken!"

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

**Take care**



**Christine Robinson**

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