

HMNA Newsletter – May 2023

communications@hmna.co.za

What a delightful Spring and wonderful Summer is has been with beautiful blooms, barmy days and welcome rain. As the mornings and evenings start to become cooler, here is some news on the progress we have made over the past two quarters.

Potholes, Poles and Playgrounds

Every year around the end of August (the traditionally windy month) and as the dry Johannesburg Winter approaches its end, people start wishing for rain...and every year, people start predicting when those rains will come...

"We need rain now to dampen this dust." "When the rains come, it will help with my allergies."

"The rains are late this year." "When is this rain coming; my garden needs water!"

And when that rain does finally arrive, in all of its Highveld thunderstorm glory, so do the **POTHLES!** This is the first year that we have decided to attend to the suburb potholes independently.

Our **street sign Poles** were starting to look rather sad and rusty so we appointed an independent contractor to repair, sand, paint and straighten them. So far, 180 out of the 198 poles in the suburb have been done and the **street sign Names** have also been attended to and are looking really good!

We have refurbished the **Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment** at Woodlands Park, welding and painting them to ensure safely first.

All of the above are responsibilities of the JRA and Citi Parks. However, as we all realistically know, the maintenance required is unlikely to happen timeously nor to the standard we expect. It does not come without great expense from the limited budget.



Gardens, Parks and Servitudes

We have appointed an external **garden service** to keep our gardens, parks and servitudes in top condition. Our hard-working and dedicated Heléne Meyer continues to oversee this function which is not an easy task as it requires constant attention and monitoring. Once again, these **public spaces** are technically the responsibility of Citi Parks and **we welcome any donation of funds and/or materials** and thank those who have already contributed towards keeping our green spaces beautiful.

We are in the process of working with some wonderful residents at our two entrances at Woodlands and Pinotage to provide **water supply** as there is no municipal water connection available at these sites.

Our gorgeous steel **Hurlingham Manor signage boards** are under maintenance including attending to the rust and lighting to rectify the occasional “hanging” lettering and “missing” lighting.

Doggy Reminders:

- Kindly ensure that your **dogs do not roam** the suburb and are collared, tagged and/or chipped for easy identification should they get lost.
- Please pick up and dispose of your **dog's poop both in the parks and the verges**. Bags have been provided at the bins in the parks for your convenience.



Security, Booms, Pedestrian Gates and Road Closures

Keeping Hurlingham Manor secure continues to take up the largest portion of our budget. In December 2022, the entrance and boom guarding contract was awarded to **FADT** after 5 years with **Savika Special Ops 99**. This in no way impacts on a resident's personal choice of Armed Response. We now have the benefit of three private security companies providing 24/7 patrol vehicles including **Beagle Watch**.

In February, we met with **St Stithians** to discuss security on our borders with the school. It was very well attended and the comprehensive minutes of the meetings can be accessed via the following link:

http://hmna.co.za/MINUTES_HMNA_SAINTS_SECURITY.pdf.

It is imperative that we work as a collective as the City does not assist with securing or maintaining the servitudes surrounding our suburb, nor are they effectively addressing the growing informal settlement or providing alternatives for the homeless at the Sandton Field and Study.

HMNA have raised and strengthened with barbed wire at the **Eskom/Alto Street** servitude. We have also installed razor wire at the **Pinotage Gate** and moved two chevrons so as to prevent people being able to step up and climb over the gate after one of the guards reported this happening one night.

The **booms breaking, being driven into and needing constant repair** continue to remain a challenge. We have addressed the booms not detecting motorbikes and have replaced the strip lights on the booms several times. Bigger batteries have been installed to keep the booms working during loadshedding. The **protocol** is that when the automated booms are not operational, the guards need to convert to manual booms.



During peak times, these are the **times the booms are left open to ease traffic:**

Woodlands Gate (outgoing) and Pinotage Gate (incoming): 06h30 to 08h30

Woodlands Gate (incoming): 15h30 to 18h00

No remote controls are allowed to be issued to residents as this is contrary to the **JRA Road Closure rules**. Our roads are still public roads and we do not wish to do anything to jeopardise our road closures which we have to regularly re-apply for and have approved.

The **pedestrian gates** are locked by Beagle Watch at 22h00 every night and opened at 05h00 every morning. To prevent the informal recyclers from “mining” our dustbins, we do encourage residents to **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**.

There are **recycling collection points** at Pick n Pay on Nicol, St Stithians or you can engage the services of independent companies like:

WholeEarth (<http://wholeearth.co.za/>) or EcoMonkey (<https://www.ecomonkey.co.za/>).

Security and Safety Reminders:

- There have been a number of **driveway gates and/or garage doors** left open recently. Please ensure for your own safety and your neighbours that you check they are closed when not in use.
- Please ensure that you **test your alarms regularly** to ensure they are in good working order and that your radio transmitters are indeed sending signals to your respective control rooms. Constant loadshedding can damage the equipment and affect battery life.
- Also ensure that you **activate your alarms** when you are out for any length of time (long or short).
- Fast, reckless and **inconsiderate driving** is unacceptable in the suburb. This includes racing, cutting corners and unnecessary revving!

Events

The **Spring Garage Sale**, requested by the residents and well-coordinated by Kelly Aronovich de Assis was an enjoyable event.

Our annual **Trick or Treat** was once again a success with a great turnout.

Christina Haiden of Woodlands Creche and Pre-School organised an equally exciting **Easter Egg Hunt**.

A **Street Rep Information Function** was held at The Higher Ground and it was very well attended by our volunteers.



Upcoming Events include:

20th May: Committee, Street Reps and Resident Meet & Greet at Woodlands Park
 25th or 26th July: 2023 AGM

The 2022 Minutes Are available on <http://hmna.co.za/AGM%202022%20MINUTES.pdf>.

Membership and New Accounting System

A big shout out to all residents contributing towards HMNA. Our membership currently stands at 61% thanks to the sterling and determined efforts of Charmaine Montanari and the assistance of the Street Reps.

Fees have not been increased for 4 years, however an increase is inevitable due to the cost of living, [unless we can get membership up to 75%.](#)

All members will receive a Proud Contributor Board with Stickers and Butterfly Car Decals.

Membership Fees:

R395 per month

R315 per month for pensioners (Age 60+)

Annual payment is the above x 11. The 12th month is free.

Annually R4 345 (Pensioners R3 465)

Payments can be made via Debit Order or EFT (monthly or annually).

Membership information can be obtained by emailing membership@hmna.co.za or can be downloaded from the website at www.hmna.co.za.

We are in the process of migrating over to a [new automated accounting system](#) and may experience some teething problems. We appreciate your understanding and patience in this regard.

Know your Street Rep

The strength in a community is strongly linked to communication, knowing your neighbours and helping each other out. From the various Whatsapp Groups (HM ChitChat, Market Place, Garage Sale, the independent Security Companies and Street Reps), it is evident that we are a community that talks (a lot) to each other!



A huge congratulations to **Yvonne Callaghan**, our Goedehoop Crescent Street Rep for receiving the award at our 2022 AGM for the **most outstanding Street Rep**. Yvonne is in contact with each and every resident in her street and is a true ambassador to our community.

Howard Rauff coordinates our valued **volunteer Street Reps**. If you need the contact details for your street rep, please feel free to email communications@hmna.co.za.

Civic Duty: How to Report a Problem

Problems do not report themselves, so please do Look, Log and Escalate using official City channels. Avoid making use of external apps or websites.

Road Issues:

Email hotline@jra.org.za

Water, Sewer and related reinstatement Issues:

Email customer@jwater.co.za

Power and Street Light Issues:

Visit www.citypower.co.za

Parks and Trees Issues:

Email crmgroup@jhbcityparks.com

Replacement Wheelie Bins

Call 087 357 1068

Billing Queries:

Email regionBvenue@joburg.org.za

(or visit the walk in centre at the Randburg Civic Centre).

If you have reported a problem to the Council, have a reference number and have not yet received a response, you may escalate the issues to the DA Councillor for Ward 102, David Potter on:

Whatsapp: 082 885 9688

Email: david@oursuburb.co.za

He is also available for any Ward advice.

It has been a really productive few months; until our next Newsletter, wishing you all the very best!

