

SUMMER 2025

ISSUE #7

BUZZ

NEWSLETTER

**BORDEAUX SOUTH:
MORE THAN A SUBURB**
INTERVIEW WITH BSRA'S FIONA REID

A WORD FROM WARD 102
BY CLLR. LUCINDA HARMAN

BORDEAUX SOUTH PARK
PLAYTIME PARADISE &
#PARKWEEDCHALLENGE

WIN WITH BSRA
2 BEE HOTELS TO BE WON



With kids heading back to school, and work routines resuming, this is the perfect time to celebrate everything that makes Bordeaux South a place we're proud to call home.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the people and initiatives driving our suburb forward. Here's a sneak peak on what you can expect:

- **Cover Story (p.13):** Fiona Reid shares her journey as a BSRA Security volunteer, working alongside Chad Cloete to ensure the safety of our community.
- **#ParkWeedChallenge (p.19):** Learn how you can get involved and support this fantastic park initiative by fellow resident, Jonathan Evans.
- **Bee Hotel Giveaway (p.29):** Want to create a haven for pollinators in your garden? Enter our competition for a chance to win one of two bee hotels exclusively for BSRA members!

As we embark on a new year, let's commit to building a stronger, more connected Bordeaux South. Whether it's through volunteering, sharing stories, or simply lending a hand to a neighbour, every effort counts. Here's to a year of community, collaboration, and care. Enjoy the read!

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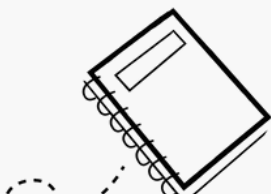
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A WORD FROM WARD 102



Lucinda Harman is the Ward 102 councillor. Ward 102 includes Bordeaux, Blairgowrie, Bryanston and other neighbouring suburbs.

Greetings fellow residents,

As we enter 2025, let's reflect on the good aspects and wins achieved in Bordeaux South this past year.

Together with Graham, earlier last year, we were able to bring an end to the slaughtering of animals with rituals at the river. Due to the pure persistence, utilising the knowledge of a Ferndale and Blairgowrie resident, we were able to get to the bottom of the taps and shower shocks with City Power. The article in Randburg Sun was a strong message to City Power to attend to their work more efficiently, not only in Bordeaux South yet across a number of wards.

Bordeaux South benefited with the newly appointed Acting Depot Manager for the JRA in Region B. She certainly has delivered on her promises and given Bordeaux South's issues more attention than any other suburb in ward 102. Let's hope she stays on if given a permanent appointment.

Bordeaux South also benefited from being the first suburb in ward 102 to undergo tree pruning. Please understand that the collection of branches takes a while. There is a schedule and City Parks is on track.

Whether a fire or sewerage issue, we have resolved it due to a good working relationship with Hilary and residents who follow the expected process.

Oerder Park, neighbouring your suburb, has done great work in uplifting their part of ward 102. Tipu Café, Old Parks, as a venue has become a second home for ward 102.

May we carry our community spirit wherever we go. We will not give up on Johannesburg, for it will thrive again.

Thank you for playing your part and may we continue to grow as a community.

I wish you, your friends and family a prosperous New Year!

**Your Councillor,
Lucinda Harman**

Tipu Café, at Old Parks,










as a venue, has become a second home for ward 102

BSRA NEWS

Community Spirit

BSRA Membership Update

We're delighted to welcome the following new members to the Bordeaux South Residents' Association.

 Bester family	 Kunene family	 Mwaba family
 Daniels family	 Mashinini family	 Nevuvha family
 Divakar family	 Mtenga family	 Vingerling family

We hope you'll spend many happy years here with us.

BSRA Committee

JOIN THE BSRA *today*

**JOIN US**

Become part of our vibrant community by contributing just R275 per month. Simply email buzz@bsra.co.za to start supporting the beautiful gardens, enhanced security, and family-friendly events that make Bordeaux South a fantastic place to live! Plus, enjoy support with reporting issues such as electricity and water outages to the relevant authorities.

GET UPDATES

Members gain access to exclusive WhatsApp groups for real-time updates on street captains, local issues, and community events. You'll also receive a quarterly newsletter with all the latest happenings in the neighbourhood.

STAY CONNECTED

Participate in fun community events, from spooky Halloween trick-or-treating to spring day car boot sales. Enjoy activities for the whole family while staying informed about security and neighbourhood matters.

Please encourage your neighbours and fellow residents to join!

Community Spirit



BSRA Garden Update

With the summer rains arriving we are tending to all the newly cultivated flowerbeds and thinning out where needed.

Regular mowing and cutting are now taking place and keeping on top of all the weeds sprouting are our main maintenance tasks at this time.



Corner Francois and Main where Joburg water had fixed a pipe



Replanted Vega entrance where they dug for electrical cables



Replanted on Main where they backfilled after the water leak

BSRA NEWS

BSRA Palisade Fence Audit and Repairs

BY FIONA REID

BSRA Security

We are pleased to share that the BSRA fence repairs have been successfully completed! After a thorough audit conducted by some of our dedicated committee members, all areas of concern - ranging from wear and tear, safety issues, damage, vandalism, and general maintenance needs - have been addressed and resolved.

The audit covered the entire stretch of green palisade fencing surrounding the Bordeaux South community, as well as the fence along Republic Road by the spruit. The findings were submitted for quoting, and the repair work was carried out by Walter from AA Ripper Wire and Electric Fence Projects during the week of 9-13 December 2024.

**BEFORE****AFTER**

LEND A HAND

The BSRA is always in need of any local residents with handyman skills willing to assist with general suburb upkeep.

Please email your name, contact number and skills to
buzz@bsra.co.za.



THE 388



Golf iron refurbishing
Polishing
Light scratch removal
Re-grooving
Sandblasting
Re-gripping Iron
Superstroke grips available

Contact: Donovan - 067 214 2881

BSRA NEWS

We are especially grateful to Walter for his professionalism and diligence. Not only did he complete the agreed-upon repairs, but he also addressed additional areas outside the scope of the initial work at no extra charge - a true testament to his commitment to quality and community spirit.

As a committee, we remain committed to ensuring that the infrastructure funded by residents' contributions is well-maintained and protected. Your support enables us to preserve the safety and beauty of our shared spaces, and for that, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

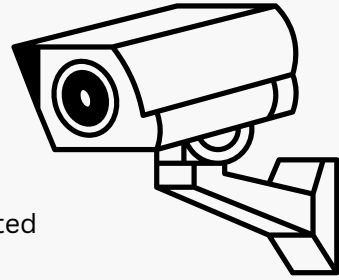
To all contributors, supporters, and members of the BSRA community, your generosity and involvement make all of this possible. Together, we are more than just neighbours - we are friends, colleagues, and collaborators working toward the betterment of our wonderful community.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support! 🏠



BSRA NEWS

BSRA Security Update



BY FIONA REID & CHAD CLOETE

The Bordeaux South Residents Association (BSRA) security portfolio is managed by dedicated volunteers Fiona and Chad. They oversee all security matters affecting our community.

With the New Year's hustle and bustle starting, now is the perfect time to assess your home's security. Criminals are always opportunistic and will look for ways to access your property so it is always important to evaluate ways in which they could access your home and address it.

Electric Fence

An electric fence is always a vital first point of early detection. Make sure your electric fence is in working order and connected to your alarm system. Strategic criminals will always test to see what fences are in working order.

Beams

Beams are an effective way to cover outside areas and get a good understanding of whether someone has gotten over your wall and is now making and approach for the house. They provide early warning and when seconds matter can get your security company there faster.

Internal Passives

Make sure to test the passives inside your house regularly to ensure they are still working. These are the last lines of defense on your property. Let your security company know you are testing and check to see if they are effective and still pick up motion.

Alarm System

Set a time in your weekly schedule to check whether your alarm is in working order and sending signals to your security company. You do not want to find out that it is not working in the case of an emergency.

Plan of Action

Always make sure panic buttons are available at set locations around your house. Let your family know where they are and train your domestic staff on how to use the panic button in case of an emergency. Remember your security company is the first responder when an emergency happens, and panic buttons let them know that assistance is needed.

Current Initiatives

Joint efforts and discussions with neighboring suburbs have proven to be highly effective in deterring the Cat Burglar and enhancing community safety. This does not mean we should let our guard down. We are reminded to still be on the lookout and not let security measures slack.

Please report suspicious behavior to your security company or the SAPS. Be on the lookout and let us make Bordeaux South safe for all. 🏠

BSRA NEWS

Celebrating Our Street Captains

The Backbone of BSRA

BY CAROLINE SMITH

BSRA Communications

The vibrant Bordeaux South community is the envy of our neighbours - and we are justifiably proud of our united suburb. But clear communication, neighbourliness and suburb maintenance rely on the often unsung work of many background heroes. One group of those is our street captains. These remarkable volunteers form the vital link between the residents and the Bordeaux South Residents Association (BSRA), ensuring that communication flows seamlessly and our suburb remains connected, informed, and resilient.

Being a street captain is no small feat. These individuals wear many hats: from moderating street WhatsApp groups with fairness and clarity to welcoming new residents and introducing them to the BSRA. They are the first point of contact for reporting and escalating faults, from potholes to power outages, and for sharing updates on safety concerns or lost pets.

Our street captains also actively promote the activities and benefits of the BSRA, encouraging membership and fostering a sense of belonging among neighbors. As a community builder, they help residents share valuable information, like emergency contacts or reminders to secure open gates. In short, they are at the heart of making Bordeaux South a safer, friendlier place to live.

But this role isn't without its challenges. Street captains often manage multiple responsibilities, including ensuring their WhatsApp groups remain welcoming and inclusive. They navigate issues like frustrated residents bemoaning aging infrastructure, sharing crime concerns, and even neighborhood disputes with patience and grace.

To support them, the BSRA committee tries to provide resources such as guides on fault reporting, updates on progress made, and opportunities to connect and share experiences with fellow captains.



We encourage residents to report any crime-related issues using the following link
<https://forms.gle/vV17YKC4jfmVdHFA>
OR the QR code



**REPORT
CRIME**

BSRA NEWS

So, next time you see your street captain, take a moment to thank them. A kind word of appreciation can go a long way in acknowledging their efforts to keep our community strong.

And if you're not yet a member of the BSRA, now is the perfect time to join. Together, we can ensure Bordeaux South continues to thrive, with our street captains leading the way.

See the full list of street captains in your area below:



1st, 2nd, 3rd, Riverside, and Louis Road

Captain, Chad Cloete
Vice-Captain, Suzanne Cloete



Allan Road

Captain, Lee-Ann Kerr



Bluegum and Park Avenue

Captain, Wayne Riback
Vice-Captain, Tania Dass



Bordeaux Drive

Captain, Hilary Baker
Vice-Captain, Roxanne Reeves



Francois Avenue

Captain, Shorts Davidson
Vice-Captain, Jonica Brown



Garden Road

Captain, Ashleigh Williamson
Vice-Captain, Caroline Smith



Hilma Road

Captain, Michelle Adams



Homestead Road

Captain, Kyla Sparks
Vice-Captain, Kate Kenny



Huguenot Avenue

Captain, Lesley Kirby-Smith



Janet Road

Captain, Claire McPhail



Linze Road

Captain, Cecily Kennedy



Meyer & Boris Road

Captain, Megail Long
Vice Captain, Sue Atkinson



Settlers Road

Captain, Stuart Jameson



Main and Ina Street

Captain, Fiona Reid



Napoleon Avenue

Captain, Steph Aproskie



Noble and Short Avenue

Captain, Cezanne Fisher



Pierre Avenue

Captain, Elinor Bodinger
Vice-captain, Janice Evans



Riverside Park Complex

Captain, Peter Nurcombe-Thorne



St. Lucien Complex

Captain, Annette Kotzian



Valley Road

Captain, Bernie Marais
Vice Captain, Alan McLellan

BSRA NEWS**Reporting Service Delivery Issues**

Here is a reminder of who to report to, the SLAs per entity and how to escalate. Please can this be followed so that the matters are more efficiently attended to. Incomplete escalation messages cannot be submitted.

Please report service delivery issues directly to the relevant entities first, only after an SLA has expired then use the format below to ensure timely resolution. Any messages not following this format will not be escalated.

Format to Use:

- ▶ Name:
- ▶ Contact Number:
- ▶ Address of Issue:
- ▶ Date of Occurrence:
- ▶ Reference Number:
- ▶ Brief Description:

Contact Details:**Joburg Water (Water & Sewer Issues)**

https://customer.forcelink.net/joburg_water/login

☎: (011) 375-5555

✉: customerserviceemails@jwater.co.za

🕒 24-48 hrs for response

City Power (Electricity)

🌐: City Power - <https://citypower.mobi/login>

☎: (011) 490-7484

🕒 4-72 hrs for response

City Parks Issues

☎: (011) 375-5555 or 0860 562 874

🕒 3-5 working days for response

JRA (Road Issues)

✉: hotline@jra.org.za

🕒 5-7 working days for response

JMPD (Bylaw Issues)

☎: (011) 375-5911

🕒 24-48 hrs for response

Source: Ward 102



**20%
OFF**

ALL TRELLIS GATES AND MAGS

BSRA SPECIAL



**ENDS MARCH
PROMO CODE: BSRA**

**0860 131 131
www.maxidor.co.za**

BORDEAUX SOUTH PARK

Playtime Paradise

BY KATE KENNY
BSRA Events and Park



Myles Brassington (left) in 1987 and his son (right) in 2019. Same park, same slide, how cute!

Our Bordeaux South Park serves as a hub of community activity and enjoyment.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Bordeaux South Residents' Association (BSRA) over the years, the park has seen significant improvements, making it a premier destination for families seeking outdoor fun with play equipment suited to both young children and older kids.

For our little adventurers, the safe rubberised play areas provide a secure space to tumble and frolic. The blend of old and modern playground equipment ensures that there's something to climb, swing, and slide on for every child.

The mini traffic road bike playground is a firm favourite, providing a fun and interactive way to teach children about road safety and traffic rules.

Post-rain, the park is beautiful with green lawns and revitalised equipment. The vibrant fresh coats of paint on the poles, signs and jungle gyms have breathed new life into the space, once looking a tad rusty and tired. Most of this transformation is credited to Christopher Harris and his capable team, who on behalf of the BSRA, painstakingly sanded down old paint and applied new vibrant layers. Though some equipment still awaits a third coat, the progress is undeniable. Thank you to community members who provided the painters with lunch and drinks.



It's not just about beautification; practical additions have also been made. A new volleyball net invites teens for a friendly match, while the newly installed baby swing gently rocks the littlest of our visitors. The park's dinosaur jungle gym has received safety upgrades, and the iconic dinosaur itself still received a few final touch-ups. New tyres for hopping have been added and broken ones removed.

The appeal of Bordeaux South Park extends well beyond the local area, attracting families from numerous neighbouring suburbs. Visitors often travel considerable distances to enjoy the facilities, frequently commending the park as the best in the greater area. This widespread appreciation underscores its status as a top-notch recreational space and reinforces the BSRA's commitment to maintaining and enhancing the park's amenities.

In addition to physical improvements, the BSRA gardening team, aided by local volunteers, is tackling an influx of weeds to keep the park pristine.



Resident, Christopher Harris, with his team.



Whether you're swinging on the new baby swing, jumping off new tyres, or navigating the mini traffic play, we hope you enjoy our special park. As we look to the future, we're exploring ways to involve everyone in the park's upkeep financially.

Your ideas and contacts are invaluable, please share them at buzz@bsra.co.za.

Bordeaux South Park promises a delightful escape. 🏡

COVER STORY

Bordeaux South

More than a Suburb

BY FIONA REID & AMANDLA
KWINANA

Meet **Fiona Reid**, a proud Bordeaux South resident and a dedicated member of the BSRA Committee.

Read the full interview to learn how Fiona, along with her BSRA Security co-volunteer Chad Cloete, works tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community while honouring the legacy of those who've come before her.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your connection to Bordeaux South. How long have you been part of the community?

My name is Fiona Reid, and I am proud to call Bordeaux South my home. I am a lighting consultant and project manager, but my most cherished role is being a devoted mom. I've lived in two homes in this wonderful suburb over the years, with my connection to the community beginning in 2012 - the year my son was born. That same year, we moved into our first home here, just a month after his arrival. It was the perfect place to start this new chapter of our lives.

In those early years, we fell in love with Bordeaux South's friendly, close-knit family vibe. My son attended Strawberries and Cream, the school right next door to our house, where he thrived for two years in its warm and nurturing environment.



Fiona Reid, BSRA Security

We were fortunate to form genuine friendships with our neighbours, including Ann and Mike Diab, who became my son's "granny and grandpa." Their kindness and support turned them into family, a testament to the beautiful spirit of this community.

In 2016, we moved to Bryanston, but I quickly realised that no other place felt quite like home. Bordeaux South's sense of community, safety, and care for one another kept pulling me back. In early 2020, my son and I returned, first as renters and later as proud homeowners once again.



COVER STORY

As a single mom, I've been deeply touched by the generosity and kindness of my neighbours, who have offered help and support whenever needed. Being back here feels like being exactly where we belong - close to our "granny and grandpa" and surrounded by people who genuinely care. Bordeaux South isn't just a suburb; it's a community that's made a lasting impact on my life, and I'm so happy to give back by serving on the committee.

What do you enjoy most about living in Bordeaux South? Are there any standout moments or places that make it special for you?

What I love most about living in Bordeaux South is how it perfectly balances the convenience of city living with the charm of a peaceful, close-knit community. As a runner, I especially appreciate the quiet, tree-lined streets where I can go for a run and feel completely safe within our gated neighbourhood. It's a rare luxury in the heart of Johannesburg, especially being so close to bustling Sandton and the surrounding suburbs.

One of the greatest joys is the ease with which my son and I can visit friends just a few streets away or spend an afternoon at the beautiful park nearby.

That park holds so many wonderful memories of my son playing and laughing, and it's such a treasure for families in the area.

We also love walking over to Tipu Café for a late afternoon or early evening dinner. The community atmosphere there is unmatched - there's a genuine warmth when you see familiar faces and feel like you're truly part of something special.

Bordeaux South is so much more than a suburb; it's a blessing to live in a place with such a strong sense of connection and care. Every street and shared space feels like home, and it's a privilege to be part of this incredible community.

What motivated you to join the BSRA and take on the role of Security Volunteer?

Honestly, I never set out to become as involved as I am now. My connection to this role began through my friendship with Jarrod McGorian. Over the years, we had many conversations about the suburb and its needs, and at some point, he asked if I would consider "helping him out."



The late Jarrod McGorian

“Jarrod was an incredible mentor - his calm, level-headed approach to any situation was inspiring.”

COVER STORY

At first, I hesitated and had to think it through. Eventually, I agreed - with the humorous condition that no one was to know about my involvement! With Jarrod's guidance, I found myself working quietly in the background, stepping in whenever needed. Jarrod was an incredible mentor - his calm, level-headed approach to any situation was inspiring. He had a way of ensuring our service providers met their commitments while treating them with the utmost respect, setting a high standard for how things should be managed.

As time went on, I noticed Jarrod needed to focus more on his own family and personal life. Leading up to his sudden and heartbreaking passing, I offered to step in and take on more responsibilities to support him during a difficult time.

When Jarrod passed, it was a shock to us all. I was asked to step into the role, and although it was a significant responsibility, I couldn't say no. By then, thanks to Jarrod's mentorship and example, I felt equipped to take on the challenge. His legacy continues to guide me in this role, and I hope to honour his memory by contributing to the safety and well-being of our wonderful community.

Can you give us an overview of your role as Security Volunteer and some of the key responsibilities you handle?

As a member of the security committee, my role - shared with Chad Cloete - centres around ensuring that Bordeaux South remains a safe and secure community. One of our primary responsibilities is engaging with all our service providers daily to ensure they are meeting their agreed service commitments. This requires constant communication, as we check in multiple times a day through shared groups where updates about the suburb's safety and security are shared.

A significant part of our work involves monitoring approximately 25 WhatsApp groups, including street-specific groups, to stay updated on any developments or concerns. When necessary, we pass on critical information to the appropriate stakeholders or service providers, ensuring that everyone remains informed and aligned.

Our main focus has been fostering synergy and communication among all stakeholders, including residents, security providers, and even neighbouring suburbs.

Daily tasks include checking in with the teams, sharing relevant updates, and ensuring that all our security equipment and barriers are in good working order. None of this would be possible without the incredible relationships we've built with our service providers, who consistently go above and beyond to help us maintain the safety of Bordeaux South. Their dedication and willingness to collaborate have been instrumental in strengthening the security measures we have in place for our community.

Looking back at 2024, what were some of the BSRA's biggest challenges and achievements, particularly in security?

2024 was a challenging year for the BSRA, marked by the loss of our comrade and instrumental team member, Jarrod. His passing was not only a personal loss but also a significant impact on our team and the community. His legacy, however, continues to inspire the work we do.



COVER STORY

One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was addressing a spate of break-ins attributed to the infamous “Wall Hopper” or “Cat Burglar,” a persistent figure who has evaded capture for years. This became a major focus for us in 2024. The BSRA security team, in collaboration with Shomrim (our security camera providers), initiated a coordinated effort to tackle this issue. We brought together a team of interested parties from neighbouring suburbs and key security stakeholders to gather intelligence and develop a strategy to curb his activity in Bordeaux South and the surrounding areas.

This collaboration culminated in a large-scale operation one evening, involving many dedicated volunteers and security professionals working together to catch him. Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, he managed to evade capture that night. However, the operation highlighted the strength of our community’s commitment to safety and the value of cooperation between suburbs and security teams.

We’ve since installed additional security cameras in critical areas, which we believe have been a deterrent. While he remains active in other areas, we’re hopeful that the enhanced measures of extra cameras and noticeable security collaboration have helped keep him at bay in Bordeaux South.

Additionally, before the close of 2024, a thorough palisade fence audit was conducted, and necessary repairs were completed to further enhance the security of our suburb.

As a committee member, what do you think makes the BSRA valuable to the community?

A community association like the BSRA plays an essential role in fostering a strong sense of unity and identity within a suburb.



In Bordeaux South, the BSRA serves as a cornerstone for creating and maintaining a connected, informed, and engaged community.

One of its greatest strengths lies in promoting neighbourly awareness. By encouraging residents to look out for one another and share information, the BSRA helps create a safe and welcoming environment. It also plays a pivotal role in building a sense of belonging and identity, reminding us that we’re part of something bigger - a community that cares about its people.

The BSRA organises social activities and encourages involvement in local events, bringing neighbours together and strengthening bonds. These opportunities for connection help turn acquaintances into friends and make our suburb a vibrant, lively place to live.



COVER STORY

Another critical aspect of the BSRA's work is its relationships with council departments and other agencies. By acting as a unified voice for the community, the association advocates for improvements that benefit all residents, from infrastructure to safety and beyond.

The BSRA also serves as a hub for sharing knowledge about local and community-based issues. This ensures that residents are well-informed about the challenges and opportunities in our area, empowering us to work together toward solutions that improve the quality of life in Bordeaux South.

In short, the BSRA is invaluable because it nurtures the relationships and resources that make our suburb a wonderful place to call home.

What are your priorities and goals for the security portfolio and the BSRA as we head into 2025?

As we move into 2025, the security portfolio's primary focus will be on continuing to enhance safety and fostering a collaborative approach to security across Bordeaux South. Some of our key priorities include:

- Optimising Boom Areas
- Securing External Access Points
- Strengthening Stakeholder Relationships
- Empowering Residents
- Leveraging Technology
- Promoting Community Involvement

By addressing these priorities, we aim to create a safer, more resilient community in 2025 and beyond.

How can residents get more involved in supporting the BSRA's work, especially in terms of community security?

One of the simplest yet most impactful ways residents can support the BSRA's work is by being proactive and willing to help when requests for assistance are made. Whether it's volunteering for an operation, joining a neighbourhood initiative, or simply staying informed and engaged, every contribution makes a difference.

Community security thrives on collaboration. By working together, sharing information, and fostering a sense of vigilance, we can create a safer environment for everyone. Residents can also support our efforts by attending meetings, participating in discussions, and sharing ideas to improve security measures.

Even small acts, like keeping your home secure, checking on your neighbours, and reporting suspicious activity to the relevant security partners, contribute to the overall safety and well-being of Bordeaux South. Together, we can continue to build a strong, united community where everyone feels safe and supported.

What are your hopes and vision for the future of Bordeaux South? How do you see the community growing and improving in the year ahead?

Bordeaux South is already recognised as a suburb with a strong community spirit and an association to be proud of, and my hope is that we continue to build on this foundation. I envision even greater community support and a deepened sense of neighbourly camaraderie, where residents feel connected and invested in one another's well-being.



COVER STORY

Maintaining and enhancing the infrastructures we've worked so hard to put in place is a priority. It's no small feat to ensure these systems continue to serve the community effectively, but with collective effort and dedication, I believe we can achieve this.

Looking ahead, I hope to see more residents actively participating in and supporting initiatives that benefit Bordeaux South. Whether it's through becoming BSRA members; volunteering, attending events, or simply engaging with neighbours, every action helps strengthen the fabric of our community.

With continued collaboration, I see Bordeaux South growing as a secure, vibrant, and welcoming suburb that sets an example of what a united and proactive community can accomplish. 🏠



MY JOZI FAVOURITES

FAVOURITE COFFEE SHOP

Patisserie de Paris, Blairgowrie

**FAVOURITE WINE/COCKTAIL SPOT**

The Roof in Bryanston, Brian Street,
close to Coachman's

**BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT**

The Wild Side Restaurant, Craighall

**BEST SPOT FOR A CASUAL HANGOUT**

Our local Tipu Café, Old Parks, Bordeaux



#PARKWEEDCHALLENGE

Love in Action

BY AMANDLA KWINANA & JONATHAN EVANS
Bordeaux South Residents



As I pulled up to Bordeaux South Park on a quiet Saturday morning, my six year old son, Kgosi, and our dog could barely hold back their excitement in the backseat. The park is always a treat! Jonathan Evans, our reason for being at the park on this particular day, warmly greeted us as we stumbled out of the car.

In 2024, two projects aimed at preserving and improving this valuable space were initiated by Bordeaux residents: improvements to the park equipment (see p.22) and Jonathan's #parkweedchallenge which began in early November.

Armed with two buckets and his gardening tools, Jonathan leads us to a patch of grass close to the park gate. At first glance - and to my untrained eyes - the weeds are not apparent. He patiently plucks two types of weeds and explains why they are destructive to the park and how to identify them.

"I was concerned about the encroachment of matweed, which competes with the grass. There are also some paper thorn plants, which can make the environment really unpleasant if they become established." he explained. Jonathan displayed a lot of care for the environment and paid attention to the other plants we need to thrive in the park and neighbourhood.



The teacher in him shines through, he takes time showing my son how to dig out the weeds using his tool, noting how the roots should remain attached to the weed to ensure that they don't grow back again. My little one took to this quite quickly. And soon after, with the arrival of Jonathan's daughter, Sharon, who'd come to help him with the weeding, Kgosi and Sharon were chatting happily away as they pulled out the weeds under the shade.

Jonathan showed me more weeds that were growing just outside the park, along the pavement, and how these weeds can take over an area if we let them run amok, threatening the grass and overall beauty of the park. Just then, a gentleman on a motorbike pulls up beside us. "My son lives here, he recently bought here," he announced after we exchanged greetings. "I just stopped to say thank you. You're doing an absolutely fantastic job! No one actually stops and says thank you and I don't even live in the area!" Indeed, the park is a haven for many people outside of our community. Treasures such as the Bordeaux South Park do not exist by accident. The upgrading of the park has been achieved and maintained by members of this special suburb. Elinor Bodinger, then chairperson of the Bordeaux South Residents' Association (BSRA), started the upward trend when she managed to negotiate a unique private-public partnership between the BSRA and Joburg City Parks in 2018.

As the man said goodbye and vroomed off from that delightful encounter, I jokingly asked Jonathan if he'd arranged for the man to come since I was there to document the park weed project - we laughed at the perfectly-timed coincidence.



Jonathan Evans



Soon it was obvious that the job was too big to do alone

He then led me back into the park, where my son and his daughter were still weeding, emphasising the importance of weeding one section at a time. That way you can see your progress and easily manage new weeds as they come up.

"I'd come to the park when I had time to dig weeds up. Soon it was obvious that the job was too big to do alone, so I asked for help on the BSRA WhatsApp group" he recalls. The community rose to the challenge. Several people paid for their gardeners to come and weed, and a video was made showing the best tools and technique to remove the tap-rooted invaders.



A local herbicide expert is also researching whether a chemical solution can be found. Piles of weed-filled black bags have already been removed from the park, and there are now weed-free areas, which get bigger each week.

Jonathan generally goes to the park for weeding on Fridays and Saturdays. He encourages fellow residents to either join him on these days or go through as and when they can. The park belongs to everyone, after all. "It's an ongoing project," says Jonathan. "Come and join me if you can, we'll chat while we weed."

Another unexpected encounter takes place when a man walking past, named Mduduzi, stops and volunteers to help weeding. Upon asking him why he's so keen to help, especially being a non-resident, he explains that we all need to take care of nature and each other, however we can. "This is love in action", says Mduduzi.

As we reluctantly bid farewell to Jonathan and his daughter, it is clear that Bordeaux South Park is love in action, just as Mduduzi put it. It is through our collective actions, from painting the park equipment to removing weeds, that we truly showcase our community spirit in Bordeaux South and beyond. 🏠



Join the Bordeaux South #parkweedchallenge

There are many ways you can contribute to keeping our park the happy place it is. Jonathan is happy to provide any guidance you may need.



Remove the weeds: whether you join Jonathan, go alone, or with friends and family, pick out a small area and dig out the matweed and paper thorns. The weeds are easier to remove the day after heavy rains or under the shade.



Sponsor a gardener: you can pay for your gardener to spend some time to remove the weeds. Please communicate this with the BSRA's Kate (buzz@bsra.co.za) who oversees the park initiatives.



Organise a date: groups can make a date of it, from the little ones to senior citizens. There's something therapeutic and fun about sitting on grass and getting your hands dirty.



Donate: you could also donate tools, food for gardeners/volunteers or any other required goods. To find out what is required, you may contact Kate (buzz@bsra.co.za).

SHADE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Crucial Role of Trees in Bordeaux South

BY KATE KENNY

BSRA Events and Park



In Bordeaux South, trees are not merely beautiful; they are essential to our suburb's ecological and aesthetic integrity. These leafy giants significantly reduce urban heat, providing natural air conditioning that helps manage our hot climate. By offering crucial shade, trees lower temperatures, decrease energy use, and reduce dependence on artificial cooling, which in turn contributes to smaller carbon footprints and lower electricity bills.

Trees also play a critical role in improving air quality. They absorb harmful pollutants and emit oxygen, creating a healthier living environment. Their dense foliage also acts as a natural sound barrier, contributing to noise reduction and fostering a tranquil, serene atmosphere that enhances the livability of our area.

The BSRA is committed to preserving the lush, village-like character of Bordeaux South. The BSRA levies collected are invested back into the community garden areas, ensuring that our gardens, parks, and tree-lined streets are maintained.

This not only beautifies our suburb but also upholds property values, making Bordeaux South a coveted location for families and professionals alike.

We encourage all residents, particularly newcomers, to recognise and protect the value of our trees. Preserving these natural assets is essential for maintaining the cool, clean, and beautiful environment of Bordeaux South.

Together, we can continue to thrive under the canopy of our cherished trees, enjoying the benefits they bring to our daily lives and to the environment. Consider the long-term benefits of our verdant environment. Rather than removing trees, we encourage you to embrace and protect these natural assets.

Please join us in nurturing and protecting these vital components of our community, ensuring Bordeaux South remains a verdant oasis for generations to come. 🏡

How Residents can Support the Randburg Community Police Forum

SUE ATKINSON
BSRA Secretary

Get involved

The Community Police Forum (CPF) is a volunteer-based organisation, which relies on the time and energy of committed citizens to achieve its goals. While there are formally elected executive and sector committees, the sector meetings are open to all residents falling into that sector – we in Bordeaux South are well represented by members of the BSRA Committee. However, we still need a vice chair and a treasurer in order to have a fully constituted Sector 1 CPF committee – please consider giving your time and skills to assist.

Donate services

In order to support SAPS and the community, the CPF is always looking for residents who are willing to offer their skills to assist. There is a particular need for social workers, psychologists and therapists to assist with victim support. Services such as vehicle servicing, tree felling, gardening, painting etc. are useful for maintaining the SAPS station and equipment. Printing services are always needed for leaflets and brochures for information sharing and education.

Donate goods

SAPS is developing a “wishlist” of goods required to maintain and enhance their services. These include items as varied as vehicle tyres, printers, JoJo tanks, padlocks etc. The full list will be available early this year.



The CPF Exco is in the process of obtaining B-BBEE certificates that can be provided for goods and services donated.

If you would like to be advised when the full list of goods and services requested is available, please send an email to susanatkinson.bsra@gmail.com, or watch the suburb WhatsApp groups for more information.



Little Bordeaux

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Back-to-School


Win a Bee Hotel!


Halloween 2024


Join the Bordeaux Birders


BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST


Get ready for an amazing school year!
Tick off these essentials:

 **Books & Notebooks** – Don't forget those fresh pages for your ideas!


 **Stationery** – Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, and a sharpener.


 **Backpack** – A sturdy bag to carry your treasures!


 **Lunchbox & Water Bottle** – For tasty meals and hydration on the go.


 **School Uniform** – Check that your uniform still fits after all the growing up you did last year.

 **Sunscreen & Hat** – Keep the sun away during outdoor playtime!

 **Labels** – Mark your belongings so they don't get lost.







 **School Timetable** – Print out a timetable to keep track of your subjects and extracurricular activities.

 **Hair Check** – Look and feel good with a nice and neat haircut or hairstyle.

 **Big Smile** – Ready to learn and make new friends!

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BACK TO school



Easy Fruit Popsicle Recipe

Ingredients:

- Juice (any favourite flavour)
- Sliced fruits (strawberries, kiwi, oranges, etc.)
- Popsicle molds or cups and sticks

Steps:

1. Fill the molds with fruit slices.
2. Pour juice over them.
3. Freeze for 4-6 hours.
4. Enjoy on a hot summer day!



BUZZING JOKES



Q: Why did the kid bring a ladder to school?

A: Because they wanted to go to high school!



Q: Why was the math book sad?

A: It had too many problems!



Q: What's a bee's favorite subject?

A: Buzz-iness studies!



Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The elf-abet!

KICKING THE YEAR OFF WITH A BUZZ!

BY JOY DAVIDSON
Bordeaux South Resident



Solitary bees are always looking for a room – and you can help them out!

Sometimes, we destroy nesting sites for solitary bees because we want our gardens to look “perfect”.

Thankfully, there’s a solution to this problem: **A READY-MADE BEE HOTEL FOR YOUR GARDEN!**

These hotels have top-class designer rooms of various sizes to keep your solitary bees safe and comfortable. The holes in the hotel are just the right size and depth for solitary bees. Once they move in, they’ll pay “rent” by pollinating the fruit, vegetables and flowers in your garden.

Start creating your chain of bee hotels today

You can buy a bee hotel online directly from Tutus Loo bee hotels (<https://www.beehotels.co.za/>), or support Birdlife who stock bee hotels and are just around the corner (corner Hume Road and Jan Smuts Ave).



Did you know?

There are more than 20,000 species of bees in the world. And most of them are solitary bees!

Solitary bees do not live in hives or colonies and do not make any honey or wax. Instead, the female bees build small nests in burrows in the ground or in cavities they find (or make) in wood or in reeds. They live in these nests alone.

These tiny nests are separated into different chambers. Each chamber is filled with nectar and pollen that the bee collects from the surrounding vegetation. She lays one egg in each chamber, then seals off the nest.

When the eggs hatch, the larvae will feed on the nectar and pollen in their chambers. They remain there until they reach adulthood, and it is time to leave the nest for mating.

The cycle is then repeated. How awesome is that?!



You can read more about solitary bees on the JoziBee website (<https://www.jozibeehotelproject.com/solitary-bees>) and here are some of the residents you can expect in your bee hotel.



1. Leafcutter bee

Leafcutter bees cut leaves into small semi-circular shapes and carry these leaf pieces to their nest where they are used to separate the brooding chambers and to seal off the nest.



2. Carder bee

Carder bees can use resin, plant fibres and earth to build their nests. They use these materials to create the nest walls, and to separate their brooding chambers. Carder bees are robust.



3. Allodapula bee

A semi-social bee that can often be found in the 4mm holes of the bee hotel. They do not seal off their nest but rather they block the hole with their rear ends.



4. Membrane/ Plasterer bee

Membrane bees use secretions from their mouthparts that resemble cellophane to seal off their nests. It takes them a few hours to completely seal the opening of their nest.

Where to put your bee hotel



In a sheltered, dry area (under a roof). The hotel must not get wet. Place it in the shade to avoid overheating.



Facing south (if possible). The bees enjoy morning sun, but afternoon sun should be avoided.



Hang the hotel from the hook on the back, making sure it is stable so that will not move in the wind or be easily knocked over.



Hang at eye level. Keep the entrance holes clear so you can observe the activity of the guests!

WIN a bee hotel!



We have two bee hotels to give away to BSRA members!

All you have to do is answer to these three questions:

1. Which type of solitary bee blocks off their nest using their bum?
2. What three things could you expect to find in the chamber of a solitary bee's nest?
3. Name 3 tips for hanging a bee hotel properly?

Send your answers, together with your name and Bordeaux South home address to joy@superscript.co.za by Friday, 28 February 2025.

The correct entries will be entered into a lucky draw, and the first two entries drawn will each win a bee hotel.

HALLOWEEN 2024

BY KATE KENNY, *BSRA Events and Park*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAYLIN PAUL



The 2024 Bordeaux Residents Association Halloween event was nothing short of spooktacular! Nearly 200 kids RSVPed and joined us for an afternoon of fun, frights, and fantastic costumes. From the enthusiastic trick-or-treating to the creative table setups, the energy and excitement from our community were infectious.





A massive thank you

to Louis Street's Chad and Suzanne for their incredible effort in creating a hauntingly beautiful setup and winning the joint Best Table award. We'd also like to extend our gratitude to those who set up tables, Riverside Park, The Meerkats @ 1st Bordeaux, The Willows School, Morgan Nissan Northcliff, Old Parks Sports Club, Savika Special Ops, and our DJ team, Sarah & Dave Walters, who kept the atmosphere lively and engaging throughout the event. Your music added the perfect touch to the festivities!

However, as much as this event was a success, we did face some challenges. Only six streets volunteered to set up tables this year, and three of those were represented by BRSA committee members who already do so much for our suburb. With the high number of children attending, we need more families to step up and man tables in the future. Running a table is simple and doesn't take much effort, yet it's essential to ensure every little ghost and goblin gets their fair share of sweets. Without more table volunteers, it becomes increasingly difficult to manage the growing excitement and expectations.

Halloween 2024 brought our community together in the best possible way, but we need everyone's participation to make it even better this year. Together, we can ensure the Bordeaux Halloween tradition continues to grow and thrill our kids.

Here's to an even more fang-tastic event in 2025!

A special mention goes to our talented local photographer, Daylin Paul, who perfectly captured the spirit of the event. You can relive the memories and see all the costumes and decorations by checking out the photos here:

BSRA Halloween 2024

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bT4xAiwQhzj7LNH6IZ2sM11w1t1tXpgF?usp=drive_link



Join the Bordeaux Birders

The Bordeaux Birders Whatsapp group is a casual birding group for Bordeaux residents that are interested in the bird life in and around the suburb.



START
BIRDING WITH
US!



3 Thrush chicks have just hatched in their nest under the boma at The Willows. Their heads look too heavy for their necks to support 😊

The nest is as round and deep as a bowl and beautifully constructed. The eggs were a pale blue speckled with brown, very pretty.

Pic and caption by Claire Prince



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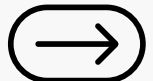
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Bordeaux South Residents' Association (BSRA) is a group of committed residents working together as a community to create a safe, beautiful and unified suburb for all our residents.

<https://bsra.co.za>