penzance estate
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2ND QUARTER | 2025

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Penzance Residents,
I am finally starting to see the light at the end of our winter and the sun!
Spring's arrival has brought renewed energy to our beautification efforts, and I'm particularly excited about our owl box project. This a wonderful example of how small initiatives can create meaningful environmental impact.
It remains clear that our investment in cutting-edge security technology continues to pay dividends, with our FirstAlert system and dedicated response teams maintaining one of Hout Bay's lowest crime rates.
However, I must address our growing traffic concerns. The rise in speeding and parking violations threatens the safe, peaceful atmosphere we've worked so hard to cultivate.
I urge every property owner to have frank conversations with household members and tenants about road safety.
Don't forget our AGM on December 3rd as your participation shapes our community's future. Only CID members can vote, so please ensure your membership is current.
Together, we continue building a neighbourhood that truly embodies our values of safety, beauty, and community spirit.
Warm regards,
Leigh Morris

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

If you are not yet a member of the CID, please remember that only members are able to vote at the AGM. So, sign up, and have your say!

Download the required documents here and email a completed and signed copy to penzanceestate@gmail.com. Note that if your property is held in the name of a corporation or trust, supporting documentation is required.



CRIME INCIDENTS & SECURITY MEASURES

The Penzance Hout Bay City Improvement District (CID) has been proactive in community-driven safety since its inception. Our collaborative security strategy has proven critical in reducing crime rates from concerning levels to one of the lowest in Hout Bay.

Today, our neighbourhood benefits from 62 strategically placed high-definition security cameras, including a high resolution unit that monitors for illegal housing and fires as well, FLIR Dual Thermal cameras that pick up body heat on mountain and greenbelt activity and new 180 degree cameras that monitor strategic intersections. These cameras are monitored 24/7 by our dedicated control room. Enhancing this network is our FirstAlert analytics system, which automatically detects unusual movement and instantly generates a 7-second video clip sent to the response team via WhatsApp.

This technology is groundbreaking and Penzance was one of the first CIDs in South Africa to adopt it. The result? Faster alerts, quicker deployments, and enhanced situational awareness that allows our teams to intercept threats before they escalate.

In addition to our day-to-day vigilance, we also employ independent security contractors who conduct clandestine intrusion tests. These trained professionals enter the estate from both mountain perimeters and internal roads in unmarked vehicles or on foot to evaluate the effectiveness of Deep Blue and our analytics system.

The most recent test was an outstanding success: the system picked up the intrusion immediately, and Deep Blue's response units boxed off the intruder within minutes; a powerful demonstration of our readiness and the strength of our layered security approach.
Our contracted fence integrity monitoring continues to be done weekly by Lovemore the dedicated local fencing expert with any issues being flagged immediately.

Incident Summary (1 May – 15 August 2025)

Neighbourhood Emergency Group – Recorded Incident

- 14 August; A suspicious bakkie was observed outside the neighbourhood gate. No further developments were reported.

Security Control Room – Confirmed Incidents

- 15 June; Four individuals seen walking down the mountain; monitored toward IY, night shift alerted
- 17 June; Homeless (known individual) monitored leaving the area; no further action required
- 22 June; Homeless person escorted out of the area
- 24 June; Attempted theft of copper house numbers; suspects escorted toward IY; client declined to open a case
- 27 June; Suspicious male escorted out
- 07–09 July; Report of individual photographing area; area search yielded no results
- 14 July; Two males from residence going toward IY; all in order
- 19 July; Vagrant washing in runoff water; no criminal activity
- 19 July; Vehicle wheel came off at Payne/Brink; not a security inciden
- 05 August; Headman escorted boys out of the area



CRIME INCIDENTS & SECURITY MEASURES

FirstAlert Statistics



- Overall FirstAlert Statistics (1 May – 15 August 2025)
- Escalated Alerts: 2,944 (Needed to be monitored)
- Ignored Alerts: 192,653 (not suspicious)
- Total Devices Monitored: 62 (all online)
- Reactions needed to investigate: 11 (1 was theft)

Illegal Structures on the Greenbelt

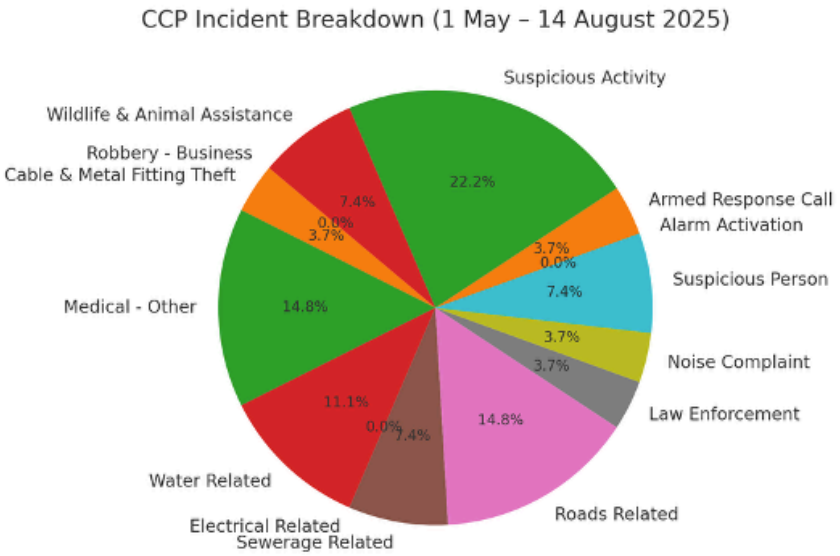
26 June
A resident reported an illegal structure in the greenbelt next to the Council Depot area, pictured above.
The Penzance high level camera was used to zoom in and check the structure and the incident was escalated to the Land Grab Whatsapp Group (which includes City of Cape Town heads of Law Enforcement, Metro Police, JP Smith, Roberto Quintas).
Response sent out by the city and found a tent structure set up by local children to play in.

Although this incident was not serious, it highlights great awareness by residents and excellent response from the City.

CCP Incident Analysis (1 May – 14 August 2025)

During the reporting period, a total of 25 incidents were recorded for the Penzance area according to CCP statistics (excluding April). The most prevalent category was Suspicious Activity with 6 reports, followed by Medical emergencies (4), Water-related issues (3), and Roads-related incidents (4). Other categories included cable/metal theft, law enforcement callouts, and environmental assistance.

This data highlights the importance of maintaining proactive surveillance, rapid response protocols, and community awareness programs to address both security threats and infrastructure-related disruptions.



BEAUTIFICATION



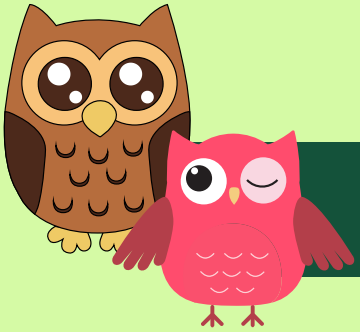


🌱 **Spring has arrived in Penzance!** 🌱

The signs are all around us; blossoms, fresh green shoots, and that little lift in the air.
We're especially thankful for the winter rains that have brought such abundance. Our verges are looking better than ever, and we can't wait to see how the corner of Payne and Van Oudtshoorn bursts into colour this season.

💚 A big thank you to our gardeners who are doing a fabulous job keeping our neighbourhood looking beautiful.
Please be kind and respectful to them. Even a friendly smile goes a long way. If they're working in your road, perhaps offer them something to drink; it's always much appreciated.

Here's to a bright and blooming spring together! 🌸



WE GIVE A HOOT

Guess what? We've rolled out the red carpet for three spotted eagle owls with new owl boxes in our neighbourhood! These feathered nightwatchers are the ultimate rodent controllers, helping to maintain the perfect ecological harmony.

It may take time for the owls to settle in, but once they do, we'll be able to enjoy observing their epic hunting behaviours and distinctive hoots.

This project highlights how small actions can significantly benefit wildlife conservation.
Thank you to all who supported this effort to create a thriving environment for both residents and our wild, winged friends!



IDEAS? PLEASE SHARE THEM!

We would love to hear your suggestions for improving our CID so please send them via email to penzanceestate@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM THULA THULA

To the Residents and Board of the Penzance CID

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Thula Thula Hout Bay, we would like to extend our sincerest and most heartfelt thanks to the residents of Penzance and the board of the Penzance CID for your generous donation received in May.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide first-line humanitarian aid in response to three devastating fires that occurred in our community. Your donation directly assisted 16 families who had lost everything, enabling us to provide essential relief in the form of toiletries, groceries, blankets, baby care hampers, clothing, and previously donated household and small kitchen items.

In times of crisis, the kindness and solidarity of our neighbours are what allow us to respond swiftly and meaningfully. Without your generosity, we simply could not offer the level of support we strive to provide to those in need.

Thank you for standing with us and helping us to support those who are facing some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Your compassion has made a tangible difference.

With deepest gratitude









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LET'S TALK TRAFFIC



Dear Neighbours,

We hope this message finds you well and enjoying the unique charm of our Penzance community.

Over the past few months, we've noticed a concerning rise in traffic-related issues throughout the neighbourhood. These include speeding, failing to come to a complete stop at stop streets, and various parking violations. While these may seem minor in isolation, they can have serious consequences for the safety and wellbeing of everyone who lives, walks, cycles, and drives in our area.

Traffic signs and road rules aren't just formalities; they're a shared language that helps keep our streets safe and orderly. When these signals are ignored, it creates confusion and increases the risk of accidents, putting both motorists and pedestrians in harm's way.

Penzance is known for its peaceful atmosphere and friendly spirit, and we all play a role in preserving that. We kindly urge all residents to be mindful and considerate when using our roads. Whether you're behind the wheel, on foot, or on a bicycle, let's work together to ensure our streets remain safe and welcoming for everyone.

If you're a property owner, we respectfully ask that you speak with your household members or tenants about the importance of responsible road use. Please encourage them to adhere to posted speed limits, respect stop signs, and park only in designated areas.

Together, we can continue to foster a neighbourhood that reflects the values we cherish: respect, safety, and community ☺ .

30 KM/H SPEED LIMIT !!



A further reminder to all that Penzance Estate is a 30km/h zone and we request all residents to pay careful attention to this while driving along our streets.

A FEW REMINDERS

AGM - SAVE THE DATE





The Penzance Estate CID AGM will be held on **3 December**, so please save the date. This is your opportunity to find out what has been happening in our community this past year, and to vote on some important matters affecting it.
All residents are welcome, however please remember that in order to vote, you need to be a member with a paid up rates account with the City of Cape Town.

Details of the AGM will be available on our website nearer the time.



A FEW MORE REMINDERS

DOG WASTE: EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!



Doggie surprises in shared spaces are a stinky situation, and let's face it, nobody's thrilled!

So, why's it so crucial to scoop the poop?

- It harms our indigenous ecosystem - unlike nature's compost, dog waste introduces excess nutrients that encourage the growth of invasive weeds, which outcompete our native fynbos and forest vegetation
- Health alert! It's a breeding ground for nasty bugs and germs that can mess with wildlife, other pets, and yes, even us humans!
- It stirs up neighbourhood drama, leaving folks feeling peeved and huffy.
- And seriously, it's just plain gross!



Let's team up to keep Penzance pristine, nature-happy, and a joy to stroll through. So, grab that bag and pick up after your furry pals!

POPIA ACT

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 4 of 2013, should you no longer wish to receive communication from the Penzance Estate CID, please email penzanceestate@gmail.com and ask to be removed from the distribution list.

Thanks for reading!

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