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1ST QUARTER | 2025

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

These past few months of summer have given us much to celebrate.
We've seen a notable reduction in crime incidents across our neighbourhood, testament to our collective vigilance and strategic security investments. The upgraded camera network, now covering key access points and street corners, has proven to be a significant deterrent and provides enhanced monitoring capabilities.

Our beautification initiatives have transformed numerous verges throughout Penzance thanks to your continued support, our gardners, and the guidance of our Board member Friedel. These green spaces not only enhance our suburb's charm but create welcoming environments for community interaction.

We remain committed to making Penzance a place where families can thrive. Children playing freely in our parks and residents enjoying evening strolls reflect the growing sense of security and community we've cultivated together.

While there's always more to accomplish, let's take pride in what we've achieved as we head towards winter. Through continued collaboration and shared purpose, we'll keep building a Penzance that's not just safe, but truly beautiful – a community we're all proud to call home.

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

Below is a summary of crime incidents reported in our area recently, along with the security measures discussed and implemented to enhance safety in Penzance Estate. Our goal is to keep you informed and ensure our community remains a safe and pleasant place to live.

Crime Incidents (December 2024 - April 2025)

1. Theft of Tools (December 19, 2024): An individual stole tools from a property two doors down from a resident's home. The suspect was apprehended by police and Deep Blue security with the stolen goods in possession, and taken into custody.
2. Theft of Illuminated Sign (January 7, 2025): An illuminated sign was stolen, likely requiring significant effort due to its secure installation with multiple 15mm x 250mm expanding rawl bolts. The theft was captured on camera, showing the perpetrators walking away with the sign. No recovery of the sign was reported. It is suspected the sign may be repurposed or sold for scrap metal.
3. Scammer Warning (January 15, 2025): A scammer, attempted to join local WhatsApp groups to sell items and defraud residents by taking payments without delivering goods. The warning was circulated to prevent further scams.
4. Car Theft (February 18, 2025) : A vehicle was stolen from a resident's property in the early morning. The theft was executed quickly and professionally, with no dogs barking or other disturbances noted. The vehicle was tracked and recovered in Khayelitsha within an hour, but the suspects fled. The vehicle was recovered, but the suspects remain at large. Discussions highlighted a trend targeting Polos and Toyotas.
5. Car Theft (February 24, 2025): A white Polo was stolen from Van Oudtshoorn Street, outside a resident's home. The theft occurred off-camera. Deep Blue is reviewing footage to identify vehicles entering the area around the time of the theft. No recovery reported.
6. Attempted Break-In and Suspicious Activity (March 20, 2025): An attempted break-in was reported in Brink Street. Deep Blue responded to reports of a "bin scratcher" and escorted the individual out of the area. No property damage or theft reported. Deep Blue's rapid response prevented escalation.
7. Robbery at Medical Practice (April 17, 2025) : Two robbers, dropped off by a vehicle, robbed a medical practice, stealing cash and phones. A receptionist was stabbed in the hand, and a gun was held to the doctor's head. The getaway vehicle's driver was detained, but the two robbers escaped, casually jogging away as captured on CCTV: The driver was detained, and Deep Blue arrived within minutes but missed the robbers. The investigation is ongoing.

CRIME INCIDENTS & SECURITY MEASURES

Security Measures Discussed and Implemented

To address these incidents and enhance security, the Penzance CID board has discussed and implemented the following measures:

Installation of additional cameras on Brink Street was approved to address blind spots, particularly after the car thefts.

An additional foot patrol was maintained through January 2025 to enhance visibility during peak crime hours. Following the March 20 attempted break-in, a request was made for Deep Blue to conduct extra early morning patrols, to increase security presence and respond quickly to suspicious activity.

Intrusion Test was conducted by CCP in April, simulating a break-in attempt. A hooded individual was dropped off to tamper with cars and evade response. Deep Blue's tactical response successfully identified and boxed in the individual, demonstrating effective surveillance and response capabilities.

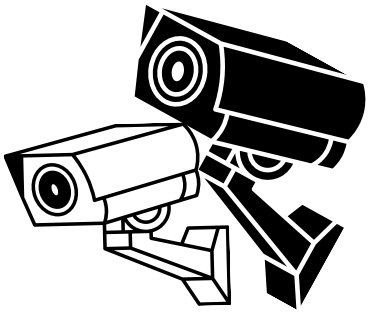
Weekly checks of public fencing are undertaken by Lovemore, Residents are encouraged to please report any fencing issues, so that we may ensure our physical barriers remain secure.

How You Can Help

- Stay Vigilant: Report any suspicious activity to Deep Blue or SAPS immediately. Use the Emergency WhatsApp group for urgent alerts.
- Secure Vehicles: Park vehicles in garages or secure areas where possible, especially Polos and Toyotas, which are currently targeted.

We are committed to keeping Penzance Estate safe and welcoming. Thank you for your support and cooperation. If you have any concerns or contributions for the next newsletter, please email penzanceestate@gmail.com.

Stay safe,
Penzance CID Board



BEAUTIFICATION

We're excited to introduce two new gardeners to the Penzance team — Wallis and Lungelo

Wallis grew up in Malawi and has been living in Hout Bay for the past 3 years. Lungelo is a local from the Eastern Cape and has been working with Escape Exteriors for the last two years.

With winter approaching and hopefully an abundance of rain on the way, our fingers are itching to get planting!

We're planning to bring more colour to our pavements with bright purples and yellows.

We've seen how beautifully the wild sage (Salvia leucantha) is thriving — a hardy, low-maintenance plant that loves full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Its vibrant flowers attract butterflies, bees, and sugarbirds, bringing even more life to our streets.

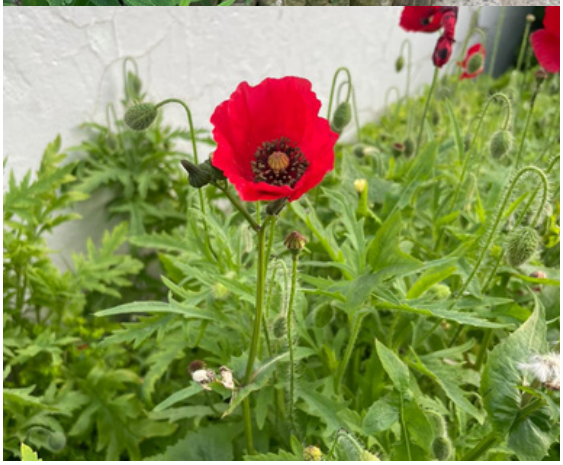
We're also aiming to plant a few more trees along the verges. The pompom tree, one of our best-known and most beloved indigenous trees, is tough enough to handle street conditions while being small enough to fit into most gardens. We're looking forward to a colourful, thriving winter.

As also please be kind to the gardeners. Offer them something to drink when they are working in your street.

If anyone has suggestions or would like to get involved, please contact Friedel directly on
082 320 9473







MUSIC AT THE FOLLY





We had perfect weather on a Saturday in April for an evening of music and socialising in our gorgeous suburb.

One of our neighbours, Georgina Crawford, kindly allowed for her Folly to be used to host the Mzanzi Tenors. It was a wonderful evening where we were transfixed by the music and voices of some of the best opera singers in Cape Town; and where neighbours caught up and shared stories with one another.

If you are interested in hosting a tea party or a music afternoon, do let us know and we can speak with Georgina about the exclusive use of her Folly.



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COCT TARIFFS - SOME RELIEF



The CIty of Cape Town recently announced some relief for homeowners with properties valued up to R7million. This on the back of sharp criticism from the public over increases in monthly bills.

Relief measures under consideration include:

- Extending the current R450 000 rates-free benefit beyond the R5 million property value cap;
- Increasing the income threshold for pensioner rebates (currently set at R22 000/month);
- Reducing new City-Wide Cleaning charges for properties between R2.5 million and R7.5 million.

A FEW REMINDERS

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.

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.



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

Thanks for reading!