



Welcome to the ninth edition of **Security Matters**. The first quarter of 2026 has been steady, active, and at times demanding, as our teams continued to manage daily operations while adapting to changing conditions within and beyond the estates. From access control initiatives to regional collaboration and technical resilience during extreme weather, this edition offers a clear view of the work taking place behind the scenes to protect and support our community. As always, security remains a shared effort: structured, consistent, and strengthened through cooperation across both estates.

DRAKENSTEIN COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - JOINT CRIME PREVENTION OPERATION



As part of the Drakenstein Community Safety Forum, members of the Estate's Tactical Team, together with K9 Paxton, participated in a coordinated crime prevention operation in Franschhoek and Groot-Drakenstein. The operation was conducted in collaboration with SAPS, Traffic Services, Law Enforcement, and representatives of the Community Police Forum.

Activities included high-visibility roadblocks, vehicle checks, and the execution of search warrants. During the operation, fines to the value of R42 300 were issued, drugs with an estimated value of R2 500 were confiscated, and one suspect was arrested for possession of illegal substances.

These joint initiatives strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to broader crime prevention efforts across the Drakenstein area.



FROM DUSK TO DAWN - NIGHT OPERATIONS



As evening settles over the valley and the last lights in the homes begin to dim, a different rhythm quietly begins across the estate. For most residents, night is a time of rest. For the security teams, it is when vigilance becomes even more deliberate.

Additional perimeter patrols begin after dark, with the Tactical Team moving steadily along the estate's 17,2-kilometre boundary. Their task is to observe meticulously, checking that every section of the perimeter remains secure.

At nightly intervals, the system itself is tested. Working together with the National Operational Command Centre (NOCC), the security team runs routine stress tests across the fence line and its network of 134 cameras. Each camera is checked to ensure its view remains clear and operational. Should one fall silent or malfunction, a technician is dispatched immediately to repair it. The same checks are repeated during daylight hours to confirm that everything is functioning exactly as it should.

Beyond the perimeter, patrol vehicles move through the estate roads and along the R301 and R45 near the main gates, maintaining a visible presence through the night. Inside the control room, screens quietly track movement across the estate. Thermal cameras often reveal more than people might expect, like duikers moving through the veld, steenbokkies crossing open spaces, sometimes even the quiet passing of a rooikat (caracal) under the cover of darkness.

At 18:00 on weekdays, the team also runs an exception report to ensure that all contractors have exited the estate, unless extended working hours were formally approved. Residents may request extended contractor hours by emailing security@vdyhoa.co.za for review and approval.

Responders moving through the estate during the night keep an eye on other details too: a streetlight that has gone dark, a pop-up sprinkler that may be misfiring. When something needs attention, a maintenance ticket is logged for the team to address.

None of this draws attention to itself. It is steady, disciplined work carried out quietly while the estate sleeps. It is this quiet vigilance that allows residents to rest easily knowing that, through the night, capable hands remain watchful.

March brought a sharp reminder of how quickly conditions can shift in our region. The month opened with an unusually cold spell, with average daily temperatures sitting around 16°C – well below the seasonal norm. Within 48 hours, however, temperatures climbed to 35°C and held there for nearly a week before settling into a more typical pattern.

Despite the dramatic swings, the overall monthly picture tells a quieter story. March ended with an average temperature 2°C above our 21-year historical mean. In fact, January, February and March have all recorded higher-than-average temperatures this year. While we usually expect a noticeable cooling trend by March, this season the overall daily maximum temperatures changed very little - only the night-time minimums dipped slightly.

The sustained heat was not only felt by residents. During the recent high-temperature periods in Paarl, security equipment housed within gate kiosks recorded internal temperatures of up to 99°C and continued operating without interruption. This underscores both the intensity of the conditions and the resilience built into our technical infrastructure.

The result remains a continued warm and dry pattern, which is relevant as we monitor regional water resources heading into the cooler months.

	Daily Minimum Temperature Difference	Daily Maximum Temperature Difference	Daily Average Temperature Difference
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)
	12.8 - 23.2	38.9 - 23.5	30.0 - 19.9
February-26	10.7 - 24.1	42.2 - 25.5	30.6 - 18.7
March-26	9.7 - 24.5	43.1 - 20.9	33.6 - 16.5
The Differences	Minimum	Maximum	Average
January-26	10.4	15.4	10.1
February-26	13.4	16.7	11.9
March-26	14.8	22.2	17.1

Connected Via	Port 9 (Uplink)
IP Address	
MAC Address	
Device Version	7.2.123
Uptime	41d 3h 18m 12s
Temperature	99°C
Memory Usage	44.9%



Cyber fraud and AI-driven scams are increasing across South Africa, with criminals using convincing emails, voice recordings and even video impersonations to target individuals and families. Banking fraud, card cloning, ATM tampering and sophisticated phishing attacks continue to rise, and both Val de Vie and Pearl Valley have been identified as targeted areas.

To help residents stay informed and protected, representatives from the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC) and SAPS will present practical guidance on bank card, ATM and internet fraud - how these scams operate and how to guard against them.

Dates: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 & Friday, 24 April 2026

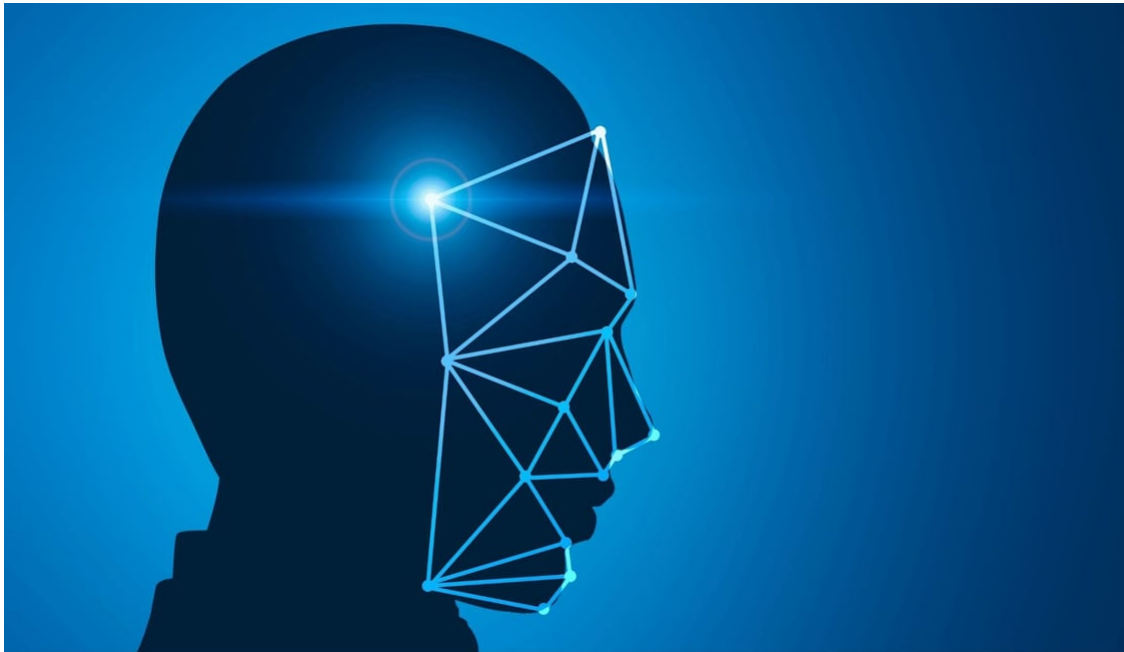
Time: 10:30 – 11:30

Venue: Evergreen Lifestyle Centre

RSVP: ronecia.adams@vdyhoa.co.za

The session is free and open to residents of Val de Vie Estate, Pearl Valley, and Evergreen.

FACIAL RECOGNITION - CAREFUL EVALUATION UNDERWAY



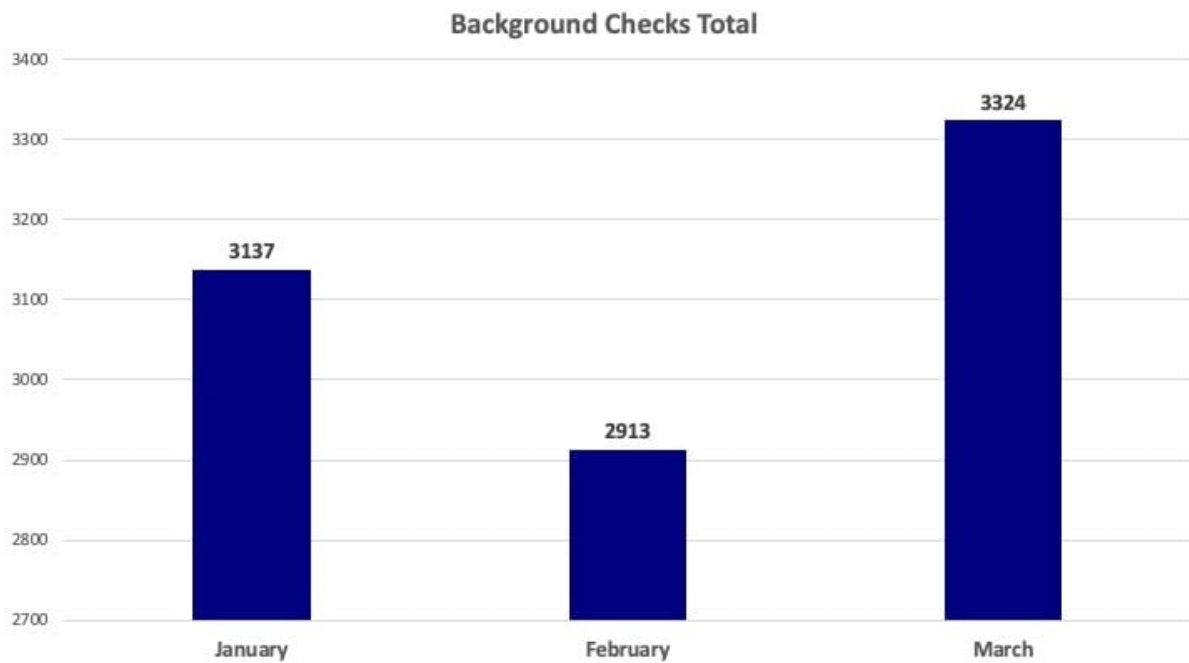
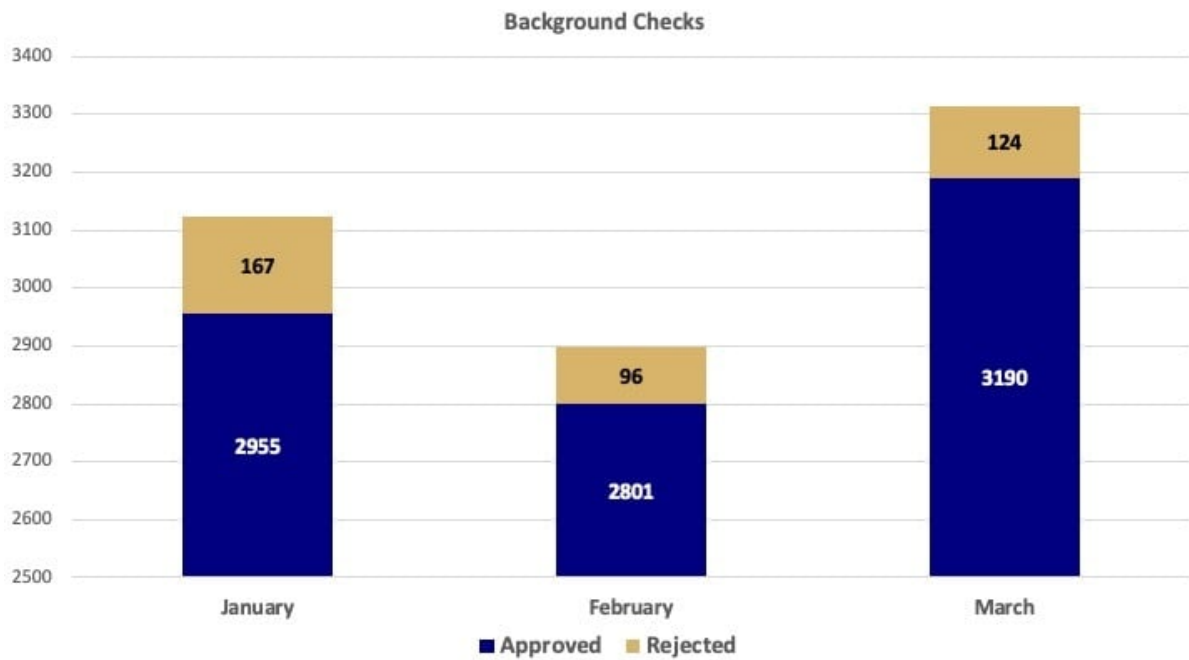
The Security Team is currently running a controlled Proof of Concept to evaluate facial recognition technology at selected access points across the Estates. The purpose is simple: to determine whether this technology can improve access control in a way that is reliable, practical, and scalable for our environment.

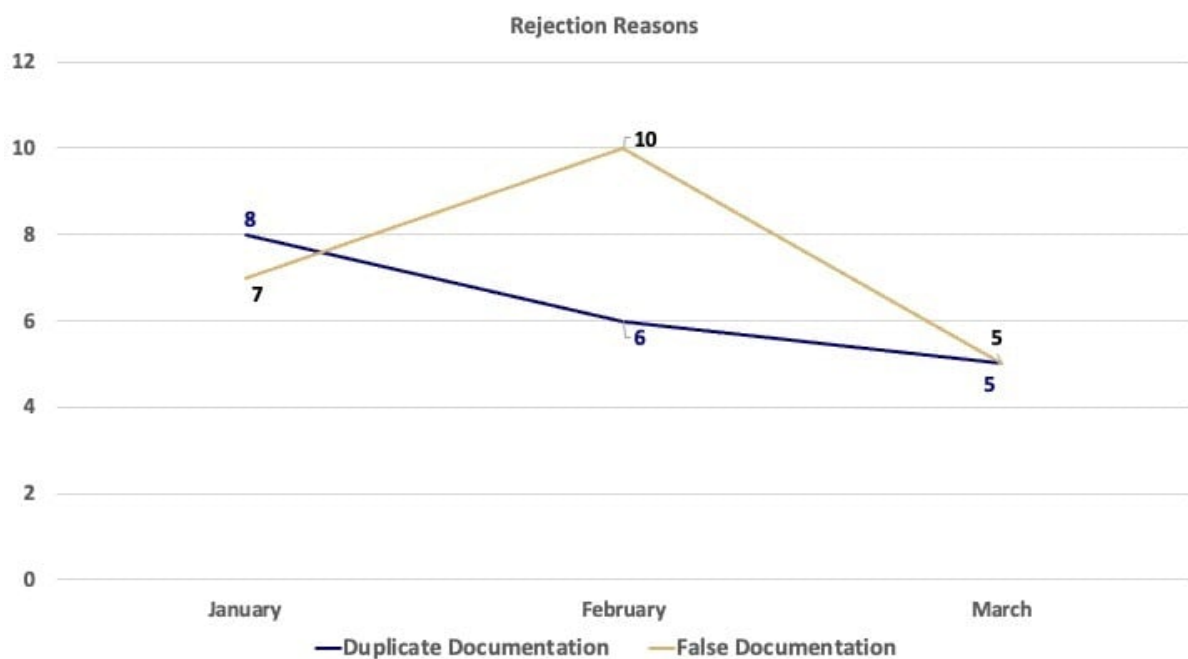
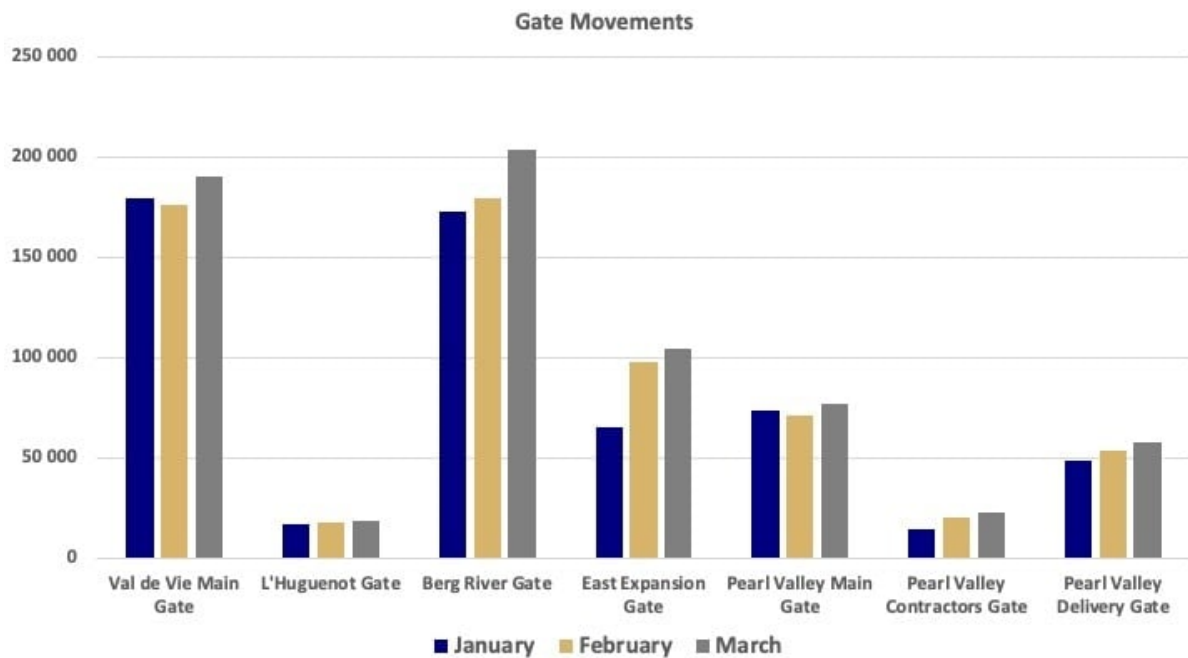
During this phase, different high-end devices are being tested under real operating conditions. The team is measuring traffic flow, ease of enrolment, recognition accuracy, and overall usability while gathering structured feedback from participating residents, staff, and contractors. The objective is to establish a clear performance baseline before any broader rollout is considered.

If successfully implemented, facial recognition could enhance convenience at access points, reduce waiting times, and strengthen identity verification without replacing existing safeguards. For the Security Team, it provides an additional tool to manage access efficiently and accurately, particularly as our communities continue to grow.

As with all security initiatives, this evaluation is being approached carefully and methodically. Resident participation and feedback during this phase are valuable, and your support helps ensure that any future decisions are informed, measured, and aligned with the needs of both Estates.

RESIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION - WHY IT MATTERS





IN CLOSING

The first quarter of 2026 has required focus, discipline and steady follow-through. Much of what keeps both Estates secure happens without fanfare in routines maintained, processes followed, and details checked meticulously.

We value the role residents play in this. When access procedures are respected and awareness is shared, the overall standard strengthens. That collective commitment continues to shape a secure and well-managed environment across Pearl Valley and Val de Vie Estate.

Yours in Security
The Security Team

PEARL VALLEY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Trustees B Lodewyk, E Lyon, J Miller, B Schäfer, I van Niekerk, D Woolley

Address 682 The Acres, Pearl Valley Golf and Country Estate, Mandela Freedom Road, Paarl 7646

Tel +27 21 001 4419

Email info@pvhoa.co.za

Website www.pvhoa.co.za

Pearl Valley Homeowners Association, R301, Mandela Freedom Road, Paarl, South Africa

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