



Welcome to this festive season edition of SECURITY MATTERS. As the year draws to a close and our valley becomes busier with holiday travel, celebrations, and visits from loved ones, our focus remains unwavering: safeguarding the community we call home. In this issue, we share important updates, recent operations and the collaborative efforts that help keep our estates safe during one of the busiest times of the year.



DRAKENSTEIN SUMMER SAFETY PLAN

Drakenstein Municipality's public safety teams have moved into "summer mode" for Paarl, Wellington and the surrounding areas. With more visitors and higher traffic volumes expected on the N1, R44 and other main routes, the Municipality has activated its Summer Safety Plan for the festive period.

Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Traffic Services, SAPS, provincial authorities, emergency medical services, community policing forums and private security companies are working together to prevent incidents, respond swiftly and keep public spaces safe. Multi-agency vehicle checkpoints (VCPs) have already begun on key routes, such as the R44 near Windmeul, focusing on roadworthiness, drunk driving, and safer driving behaviour. Additional law enforcement officers, including 20 new LEAP officers, will provide visible

policing and by-law enforcement throughout the season.

Public cooperation remains essential. Residents and visitors are urged to:

- Report fires immediately and only make fires in designated areas, fully extinguishing them before leaving the area.
- Drive with patience and care, obey speed limits and arrange a sober driver, taxi or safe-ride service if you are drinking.
- Stay alert in busy areas and report suspicious behaviour without delay.
- Supervise children closely near water, including dams, pools and rivers.

By working together, authorities, estates, businesses and residents can help make this summer memorable for the right reasons: safe travels, peaceful neighbourhoods and communities that thrive.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER FIRE SEASON

Our Security Team is an active member of the Winelands Fire Protection Association (WFPA), which coordinates integrated fire management across the Cape Winelands region. This means our estates are part of a broader, professional network focused on preventing and managing wildfires – not just reacting to them.

Recently, our team supported the WFPA in two incidents: a fire near Drakenstein Prison and

a fire at the Pearl Valley green waste site. In all such cases, the Security Team will always prioritise the estates. If assistance is required off-site, they remain on call and will return immediately should there be any fire-related risk on the estates.

Through the WFPA, the region benefits from:

- A coordinated fire management plan for the broader area around our estates.
- Identification of high-risk areas and support to reduce these risks before a fire starts.
- Strategic fire breaks that help slow or stop the spread of wildfires towards properties.
- A direct link between landowners and Fire Brigade Services during wildfires and prescribed burns, ensuring faster, more organised responses.
- Training and coordinated incident response, so that all role-players on the ground work from the same plan when a fire breaks out.
- Support for clearing invasive alien plants in high fire-risk areas, which reduces fuel loads and the intensity of potential fires.
- Public awareness about wildfires helps communities understand how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire.

By being part of the WFPA, our Security Team is better equipped, better connected, and better prepared, thereby strengthening the protection of our estates and the surrounding valley during the high-risk summer months.



RURAL SAFETY OPERATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAPS AND PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC

On 10 November 2025, members of the Tactical Team joined SAPS in a rural crime prevention operation in the Klapmuts, Groot-Drakenstein and Franschhoek areas.

Approximately 20 SAPS officers, Provincial Traffic officials, Community Policing Forum representatives, and private security companies collaborated on this joint operation. Roadblocks were set up and targeted searches were conducted to detect illegal activity, remove threats from our routes, and enhance visible policing in the broader rural areas surrounding our estates.

Bidvest Protea Coin K9 handler, Gerrit Levin, and K9 Haskia formed part of the team on the day, assisting with searches and detections.

These joint operations enhance rural safety, support the SAPS in tackling crime beyond our perimeter, and contribute to a safer environment for residents, staff, and visitors travelling in and out of the valley.



WELCOME HOME, K9 PAXTON

Our first K9 resident has officially taken occupation of his new home on the estate, a meaningful milestone in strengthening our on-site security capabilities.

These purpose-built kennels were designed with both safety and animal welfare in mind. Shaded areas, trees and an irrigation system help regulate temperatures during warmer months, ensuring a comfortable environment for the highly trained dogs that support our security operations.

For everyone's safety, residents are reminded that the kennels remain strictly off-limits. Please do not approach, touch or feed the dogs. Respecting their space allows the K9 Unit to stay focused, well-rested and ready to perform their vital role in keeping our community safe.





IN MEMORY OF MAURICE-RYAN HAUPT

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of our colleague and friend, Maurice-Ryan Haupt, who bravely fought cancer with great dignity and courage.

Maurice joined the Security Team in September 2018 and, over the past seven years, became a highly valued member of the team and a familiar, trusted presence on the estates. His professionalism, integrity and kindness touched many lives. Maurice is survived by his wife and three daughters, who are in our thoughts during this profoundly difficult time.

On behalf of the estates, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones as we honour and remember a life marked by quiet courage, generosity, kindness, and a willingness to help.



TRAVEL SMART: YOUR GUIDE TO A SAFE FESTIVE SEASON

Whether you're planning a road trip within South Africa or flying overseas for the festive season, a little preparation goes a long way. From vehicle readiness and traffic management to digital security and destination research, these tips are backed by expert advice and real-world experience.

Travelling Within South Africa

South Africa remains one of the most targeted countries for travel-related crime in Africa, and the festive season brings unique risks.

- Vehicle preparedness matters: a full pre-season service, correct tyre pressure, functional brakes, and emergency equipment (a spare tyre, jack, and fuel reserve) reduce the risk of breakdowns, avoidable delays, or worse.
- Stay alert and patient on the roads: Holiday traffic often brings stressed drivers, fatigue risks and heavier volumes. Maintain a safe following distance, obey speed limits, avoid driving after dark whenever possible, and rest frequently, ideally every 2 hours or approximately every 200 km, as a good rule of thumb.
- Secure your valuables and stay vigilant: The festive season's rest stops and long drives can present opportunities for petty theft or vehicle crime. Lock your doors, hide valuables, avoid leaving your vehicle unattended in poorly lit areas, and choose reputable rest stops.
- Use reputable providers and stay informed: Book trusted accommodation and transport in advance. Monitor weather, road conditions and traffic updates via apps or radio. Check public holiday schedules and local advisories for updates.

Travelling Outside South Africa

- Research destination safety and health: Before you depart, check travel advisories for your destination to ensure your safety and well-being. Research political stability, health risks, required vaccinations and local customs.
- Documents, insurance and connectivity: Use travel document organisers and keep digital copies of passports and travel insurance. Avoid carrying all cash or cards in one place. Inform your bank of your travel plans to avoid fraud flags.
- Avoid risky areas and stay connected: Once abroad, steer clear of isolated districts, especially after dark, and maintain contact with friends or family back home so that someone knows your whereabouts.
- Mind your digital security: On overseas trips, public Wi-Fi and unfamiliar computers may carry risk. Use secure internet connections (VPNs, if possible), avoid sensitive banking transactions on public networks, and be alert to e-scams or local fraud methods.

General Travel Safety Tips for All Trips

- Avoid using public Wi-Fi for internet banking or any sensitive transactions.
- Trust your instincts: if something feels off, leave the area.
- Always keep a close eye on your possessions in crowded spaces.
- Carry a basic first-aid kit and bottled water.
- Pre-arrange airport transport to avoid "grab" services that aren't licensed.

By planning, staying alert, and making informed choices, you increase the chance that your holiday will be smooth, safe and truly enjoyable. Wherever you go, travel smart. Arrive well, return safely.

SECURITY CONTACT DETAILS

To ensure quick and effective communication in any situation, whether it's an emergency, a general enquiry, or a security concern, we encourage all residents to save the following contact details for the Security Team. Storing them as "Contacts" on your mobile device ensures that help or information is always just a click away.

Email Addresses

Security: security@vdrvhoa.co.za

Head of Risk and Security (Marius Herselman): marius.herselman@vdrvhoa.co.za

Bidvest Protea Coin Contract Manager (Brett Ashington): ashingtonb@proteacoin.co.za

Telephone Numbers

Security Control Room: +27 (0)21 863 6101/3 or +27 (0)21 867 1201

Security Control Room Emergency: +27 (0)82 323 3387

Titanium Securitas Medical Response: +27 (0)21 982 8055 or +27 (0)64 890 5274

Keeping these details handy helps ensure that the right people can respond swiftly when needed, for your peace of mind and the safety of the entire community.

IN CLOSING

As we head into the festive season, let us continue to look out for one another with the same care and vigilance that define our community. Safety is always a shared commitment, strengthened by awareness, cooperation and consideration for our neighbours.

Thank you for partnering with us throughout the year.

Yours in Security

The Security Team

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