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MID newsletter – September 2020



Dear Members,

As life slowly starts creeping towards 'normal' in Muizenberg, with the beachfront bustling on warm days, businesses reopening and the community coming out and initiating projects (more on this below), I'm cautiously optimistic that we may have overcome the worst of this devastating pandemic.

That said, we still see many residents and even business owners flouting social distancing and mask-wearing Covid-19 regulations. There have already been warnings from the powers that be that restaurants could be shut down again if there is non-compliance. The majority of establishments are fully compliant, but as always there are a few who flout the rules and thereby place the livelihoods – and indeed the lives – of others at risk.

We once again implore everyone in our little community to buckle down and stick to the regulations for what is hopefully 'the last stretch'.

As things slowly normalise, the MID board has been busy with a range of projects. From the seemingly small task of weeding (which is very important to maintain infrastructure) to the larger task of finalising the rollout of the MID's high-tech camera surveillance system, our volunteer directors and small team of staff have our work cut out for us!

The 'to-do' list can seem never-ending at times, but it gives the board great satisfaction to see projects come on-stream or come to fruition week after week.

We hope it also buoys you, the members to see these improvements, big and small, taking place.

Peter Corbett

MID Chair

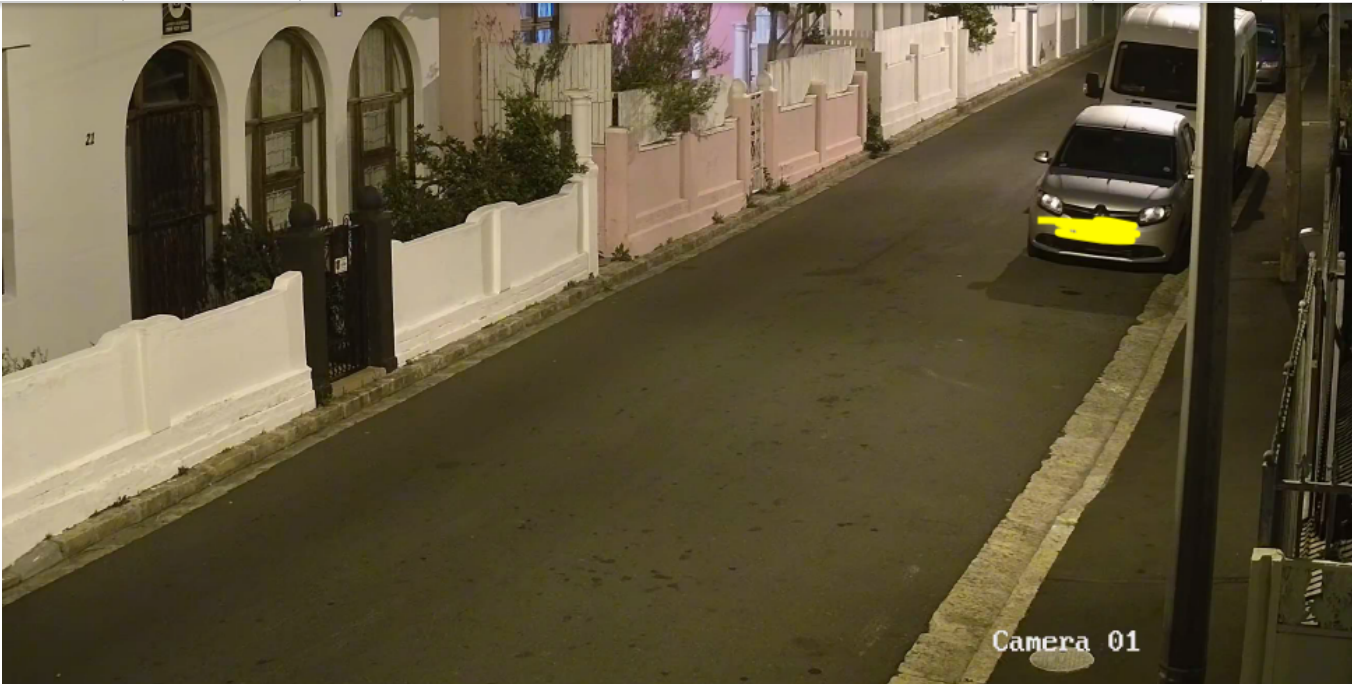
A 24/7 Eye On Crime

Best news of 2020: by the time you read this, the MID's security cameras will be fully rolled out and operational!



Highlights of this super high-tech system include:

- A total of 44 cameras covering the MID area, each with extremely high definition and clear night visibility.
- The cameras are all connected by a fibre optic network to a dedicated MID camera control room monitored 24/7 by MID's Public Safety service provider, GRIT.
- All 44 cameras have 'black light' software. This means that the screens are black at night until a person or vehicle crosses the cameras' vision, at which time an alarm is triggered to immediately alert the control room operator. If the footage shows anything suspicious, the operator will immediately dispatch foot, bike or car patrol. This means it will be virtually impossible for criminal elements to enter or move around the village at night without alarms being triggered and GRIT monitoring their every movement.
- Four of the cameras are Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras (two of which were installed and paid for by MCW) and are strategically positioned at all main entrances to the MID area. These cameras take photographs of the number plates of every single vehicle entering the area. These images are then automatically transmitted by fibre optic to Navic, where they are compared to a database of stolen vehicles and/or those involved in other suspected crimes. If a match is made, an alert goes out within minutes to GRIT, SAPS, Law Enforcement and other security companies in the area for further tracking and investigation.
- 14 of the 44 cameras are positioned on the periphery of the MID boundary (beachfront, Main Road, the Vlei). These cameras are able to pan, tilt and zoom so that these areas can be systematically searched.
- The remaining 30 cameras are fixed-focus cameras covering strategic intersections and crime hotspots within the residential area.
- The camera service provider is currently training GRIT staff to operate the sophisticated control room, which includes technology that allows the controller to follow suspicious persons or vehicles as they move from one camera zone to the other, and thus guide the patrollers on the ground to suspects.
- Lastly, but very importantly, all footage is stored for some three weeks, which means it can be used for investigation and prosecution where criminal activities are recorded.



We are confident that with further training of GRIT patrollers and more intensive collaboration with Law Enforcement, neighbourhood watches and the community, the new camera system will do much to deter criminals from the MID area, apprehend those who do venture in and ensure there are consequences for criminality.

The ‘Usual Suspects’ Are Back

There has been a return of known criminals (those who have previously been arrested for crimes in the MID area, charged and served prison time – often more than once), along with some ‘new faces’, some of whom are suspects in criminal or attempted criminal behaviour.

A fortnightly meeting has been arranged with Muizenberg SAPS, MID, GRIT and neighbourhood watch representatives to focus solely on combatting the spike in crime in the MID area. The purpose is to identify hotspots, share intel and collaborate between stakeholders where appropriate.



In the interim, we implore all residents to not create an enabling environment by giving food, money and other goods directly to people on the street – this includes supporting the many unofficial car guards new to the area.

Please rather ‘give a hand up, not a hand out’ by supporting local non-profit and community organisations that are supporting people who are legitimately in need. These include the Muizenberg CAN, U-Turn and Living Hope, among others.

Report Every Crime...Or Forever Hold Your Peace

If you experience any crime, no matter how ‘petty’, it is vital you always report to Muizenberg SAPS.

Why should you do this if it’s ‘just a broken car window’ or ‘just an attempted break-in’?



It's true: the amount of resources (officers, reservists, vehicles, admin staff, etc.) allocated to SAPS wards is based on reported crime statistics.

For example, if the crime stats show there are 200 car break-ins per year, but in reality there are 500+ because 300+ went unreported, less resources than needed will be allocated to Muizenberg SAPS.

Yes, it can be quite a process to report crime. Yes, it's time-consuming. Yes, no one likes doing it...

But if we don't report every crime, can we complain when we have to wait for SAPS to respond because they're short-staffed, have insufficient vehicles, etc?

So please help make Muizenberg a safer place by reporting any and every crime!

CRIME REPORT



Ps. If you would like to get more involved in improving policing in our area, please consider joining / supporting the Community Policing Forum. Details here:

<https://cpfmuizenberg.org.za/>

Greening The 'Berg Continues

Last month we tackled the Palmer Road garden as well as the large circle garden at Surfer's Corner for a clean up, which saw overgrowth and weeds removed. Our aim is to keep these gardens looking decently maintained.



The Palmer Road garden cleaned and cleared.

attempting to make the area – part of the gateway to Muizenberg – beautiful.

We will also be cleaning up several of the 'island gardens' in the centre of roads in Muizenberg.



The Surfer's Corner garden after the big clean up.

We've had several people come forward to volunteer their time and/or to provide cuttings, which is greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer time and/or donate cuttings, please email gardens@mid.org.za.

We again appeal to residents to contribute to our greening efforts by paying attention to their property and its surrounds, and to take the initiative to weed, garden and plant where needed.

By working together, we can all help 'Greenback Muizenberg'!

From Potholes To Paving Stones...

Our mission this month has been to compile an extensive list of C3s – the name for issues to be reported to council, such as potholes, missing paving stones, missing drain covers, for repairs.

Council informs us there is a backlog so repairs will take some time, but rest assured MID has C3s in our sights and will pursue until fixed. Should you see any items for fixing, please email ops@mid.org.za and kindly provide a description, exact location and an image.

Meanwhile, the MID cleaning team has continued with the job of pulling weeds and spraying (with organic weed killer) where necessary. This is imperative to protect the infrastructure of roads and pavements.



MID cleaners on a weeding mission. And always more weeds to be pulled.

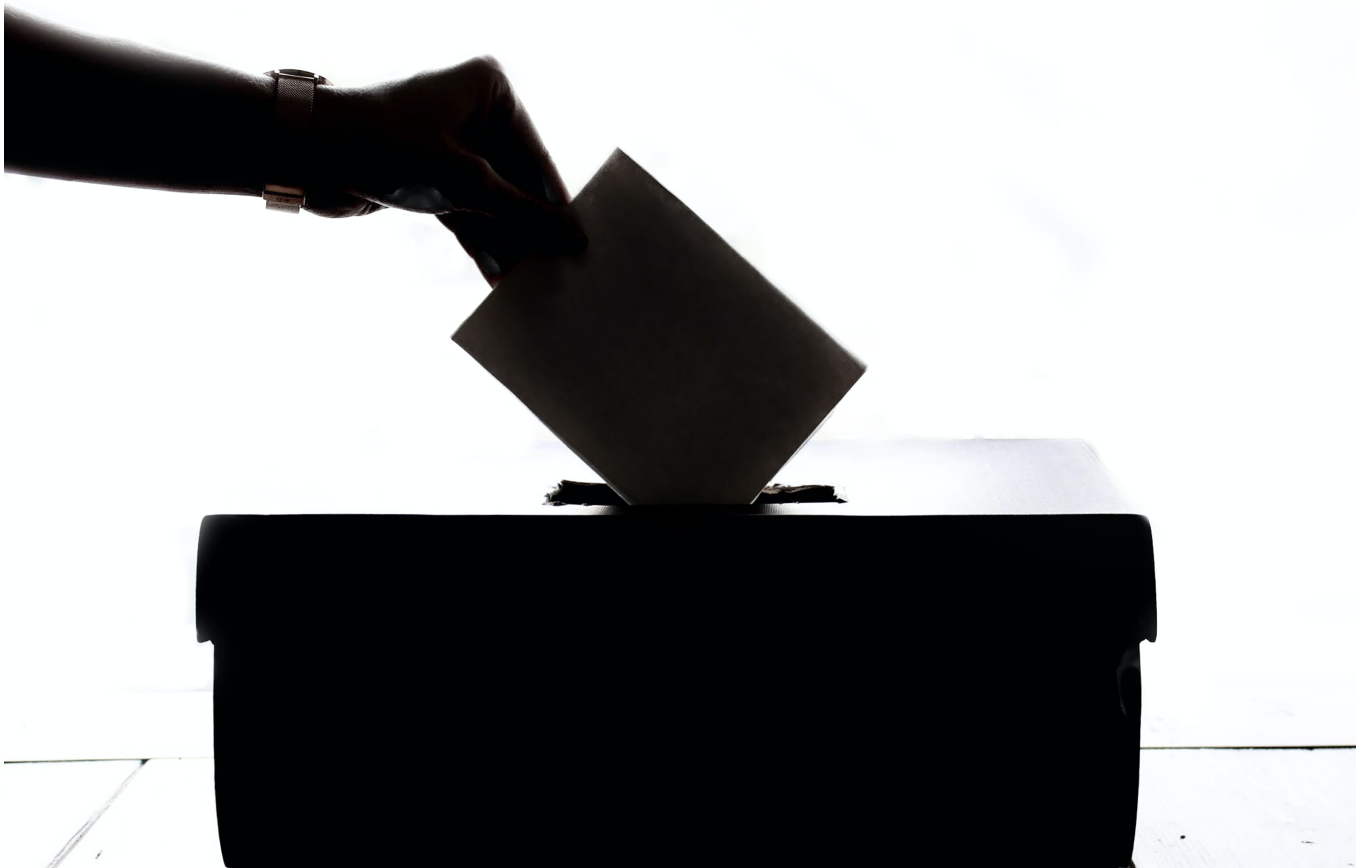
In addition, the cleaning team have continued doing deep cleans as well as daily sweeping, and the roads are generally looking good. However, there is still a problem with illegal dumping, including large amounts of garden refuse being put on bin day, which is not picked up by council. Please arrange removal of your garden waste and other goods not collected by council.



Dumping is a huge issue in the MID area, as pictured above.

To report illegal dumping, please email ops@mid.org.za with full details.

Make Your Vote Count



Help us help you to have your say by doing the following admin:

1. If you're a **property owner** in the MID area, download and [fill out this form](#) and send it to manager@mid.org.za. This is to register you or, if you are already registered, ensure your details are correct.
2. If you are a **business property owner**, please [fill out this form](#) and send it to manager@mid.org.za. This is to register you or, if you are already registered, ensure your details are correct.
3. If you're a tenant (business or residential), you may vote if you get a proxy from your landlord. Download the proxy form [here](#). Fill it in and get it signed by your landlord, then send it to manager@mid.org.za

We know you're busy and this may seem like a mundane admin task, but it's actually quite important because it means:

- **YOU** get to decide who is on the MID board of directors for 2021.
- **YOU** get to have your say on crucial issues affecting all residents and businesses.
- **YOU** get to be actively involved in shaping the future of Muizenberg.

Happening In Our Hood

The MID board has been heartened to see some great community initiatives launch or continue over the past month. Here are a few you can be part of:

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Save Our Beach Huts

Led by local Angela Barry, a group of dedicated residents are rolling up their sleeves to repair and renovate the iconic Muizenberg Beach Huts, one hut at a time.

Donations of time, man/womanpower and supplies are wanted. If you can help, please email saveourbeachhuts@gmail.com and follow them on Facebook [@saveourbeachhutsCT](#) for updates.



The iconic beach huts are in dire need of some TLC.

Another great way to support the beach hut project – and show your Muizenberg pride – is to purchase a Muizenberg buff. Made out of cotton in colours representing the beach huts, a percentage of sales from these buffs will go towards the Save Our Beach Huts initiative.



The buffs are currently on sale at JOON, Epic Print, Sparrows, Blue Priest and The Real Bread Company. Or shop online here: <https://whalewatchers.co.za/shop/>

Vlei Veld Circle Breaks Ground

If you've walked on the mountainside of the vlei recently you will have noticed the giant circle that seemingly emerged overnight. We hate to disappoint the UFO-chasers, but this is not Muizenberg's own crop circle!

Officially called the Zandvlei Strandveld Circle, this flower mandala-shaped garden is a partnership between FynbosLIFE, the City of Cape Town and the Mapula Trust.



The Zandvlei Strandveld Circle has the same design as FynbosLIFE's Grootboschkloof Fynbos Circle in Constantia.

It will be soon be filled with plants with medicinal, edible, biodiversity and/or horticultural value that are specific to the original veld type of Zandvlei. Along with detailed signage to educate users, the Zandvlei Strandveld Circle's circular design represents the restoration of a healthy fynbos ecosystem.



FynbosLIFE Programme Coordinator Dr Caitlin von Witte tells The New Muizenberg School's Class 1 kids about the veld circle.

The New Muizenberg School's Class 1 helped plant the first wind-breaker plants and, once the heavy machinery work is done inside the circle, FynbosLIFE will have a public planting day where the community is invited to help plant Muizenberg's own veld circle.

Keep an eye on FynbosLIFE's Facebook page [@fynboslife](#) or website www.fynboslife.com for dates.



Class 1 planting the windbreaker wall for the vleis new veld circle.

While FybosLIFE will coordinate and undertake hard maintenance of the veld circle, the non-profit organisation is looking for volunteers to assist with light maintenance on an on-going basis.

If you're keen to get your hands dirty, contact Programme Coordinator Dr Caitlin von Witte on info@fynboslife.com

Another Epic Beach Clean Up

The second Epic Print Beach Clean Up will take place on Saturday 19th September from 08h30 to 10h30.

MID is supporting this initiative by providing black bags and arranging for solid waste to collect the haul of trash.



Epic Print staff and volunteers with their trash haul after the last beach clean up.

You can support this initiative by volunteering your time – Epic promises coffee and muffins to all volunteers!

Meet at Epic Print at 08h30 and bring your own gloves and hand sanitizer, and please wear a mask.

Community Vlei Cleaning Continues

Since lockdown level 4, a group of volunteer residents have been meeting twice a week to clean the banks of the Zandvlei and estuary. Donations are also being collected to hire local unemployed people to clean for longer periods.



Masked, gloved and ready to clean up!

Through this community-driven initiative, organisers Anna Wade and Grace Coates aim to reduce the amount of plastic waste being swept into the ocean and also raise awareness around plastic waste.

More volunteers and donations are always welcome!

Share Your News

If you have any community initiatives or other MID-area news to share, please send to communications@mid.org.za

**Contacts To Note:**

Please save the safety and security numbers to your phone and keep them handy at home.

**Safety & Security:**

- **GRIT** (MID Public safety provider): GRIT 021-7888453
- **Muizenberg SAPS Control Room**: 021-787 9000 / Muizenberg SAPS@saps.gov.za

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