

BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION

Rustenburg – Simply complaining about the crime in your community will not make a difference. We all need to take an active role in the fight against crime.

A community policing forum (CPF) is one of the structures used for crime prevention within the community. The establishment of CPF's was provided for in section 221(2) of the Constitution and section 19(1) of the South African Police Services (SAPS) Act 68 of 1995.

Even though the police remain the operational authority, this remarkable group of individuals work hand-in-hand with them in making our community safer. To effectively prevent and respond to crime, police need continual feedback, support and collaboration from members of the community.

"There are many benefits for a community who takes responsibility, when working closely with the police, to prevent and combat crime," said Rustenburg CPF EXCO acting chairperson Carlo Pasino in an interview with *Platinum Weekly*.

The CPF acts as a channel between the police and the community to ensure that the police's safety plans, statistics, as well as community needs and complaints regarding crime hot-spots and suspicious activities, are communicated and addressed.

The forum consists of volunteers who give their time -free of charge- to patrol the streets while the rest of us are sleeping soundly. The increase in visibility can dissuade people from committing a crime. Therefore they need more volunteers to assist them in their mission to combat crime.

"Whether you are a patroller, or simply function as the eyes and ears of your immediate surrounds – every member counts," Pasino said.

Members are divided into sectors for the different areas of Rustenburg. Someone in your



AfriForum Buurtwag chairperson Dawie Odendaal (left) and AfriForum Buurtwag member Jan Erasmus.



It takes a strong team to be effective in the fight against crime. Members of the Rustenburg CPF and AfriForum Buurtwag.

area is keeping a watchful eye on things.

Because it is a team effort other organisations have also rolled up their sleeves to help the CPF with this crime-control campaign.

AfriForum Buurtwag chairperson Dawie Odendaal said: "Everyone needs to get involved. Communities are comprised of many different people, each with his or her own skills, views and innovative ideas that can make a huge difference in the efficiency and effectiveness of fighting crime".

By working with your neighbours, you can actively contribute to reducing crime in your community.

A safe community is one where members know each other, share information with each other, are familiar with their local environment and report all suspicious and criminal activity to police. "We all want to feel safe and see a decrease in crime but to achieve this we need to work together," Odendaal added.

The CPF would once again like to stress the importance of being vigilant.

Pasino added: "Be aware of your surroundings. Lock your doors and don't leave valuable items in your car where it is in plain sight of criminals. If you see something suspicious report it. We should look out for each other."

Get involved and play a part to make Rustenburg safer. For more information on joining the Rustenburg CPF, visit their website and fill in an application form. You can also phone Odendaal on 072 074 9620 for more information on the role AfriForum Buurtwag plays in assisting with crime prevention in the Rustenburg community.



Volunteers that form part of the Rustenburg CPF.

MAN SHOT AT HIS HOME IN CASHAN

Rustenburg – A man was seriously injured during a shooting incident at his home in Cashan on Tuesday 10 March.

According to police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi, the victim and his wife were busy in the kitchen when they heard something outside.

When he opened his front door he discovered three men standing outside. He realised something was amiss, but it was too late to get away. The suspects fired two shots. One of the shots hit him in his side. An

eyewitness saw three men running towards an old shape, dark green Audi with another person inside - about 20m from the house.

The man was rushed to hospital where he is currently in a stable condition.

No arrests have been made and police are investigating the matter.





Staan Saam Rustenburg is 'n baken van hoop.
Staan Saam en doen jou deel.

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