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**NEWS LETTER December 2007**

## **WARD 5 INFORMATION**

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### ***1. Sedibeng Mecca for Tourism.***



"Our region is rich in political and historical tourism, which we must put into multimedia exhibitions, to position the Vaal as a popular tourist destination in Gauteng. Soweto is popular tourist destination only because apartheid used to play its games at. They experimented a lot of apartheid policies in Soweto but in the Vaal, we have the history", said James Makhubo, a resident of De Deur, who is also a veteran teacher in Evaton.

The South Gauteng Region, commonly referred to as the Vaal Triangle, is largely the poorest section of the economically rich Gauteng Province.

Its main metropolitan centre is the town of Vereeniging, which also serves as the district administration centre for the three municipalities (Sedibeng), Emfuleni in Vanderhijlpark and Vereeniging, Lesedi in Heidelberg and the Midvaal; formed largely by farmlands areas of Walkville, De Deur, Eikenhof and small towns of Meyerton and Henley-on-Klip.

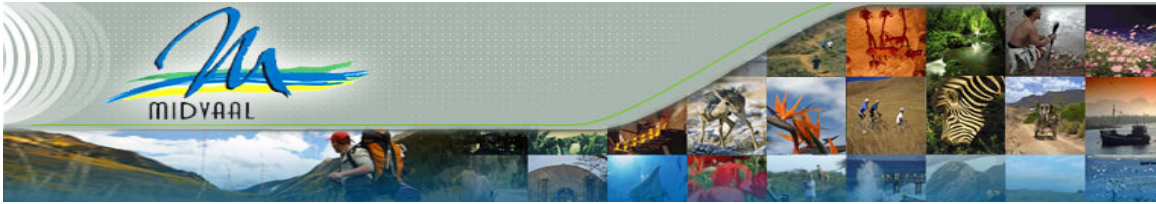
The two major eco-tourism attractions to this region are the Vaal River and Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve in the Midvaal.

Situated approximately 50 kilometers (km) south of the Sandton city and an hour drive from the capital Pretoria; Midvaal offers a spectacle scenery of rolling Eikenhof hills and farmlands that stretch across Walkerville and De Deur, west of the R59 highway as well as the spectacular Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve to the east of the R59 highway. That is travelers driving south on the R59 connecting them to main towns of Vereeniging and Vanderbiljpark, situated along the Vaal River, (Lekoa River in Sesotho), will pass the small towns of Henley-on-Klip and Meyerton on the left.

Suikerbosrand has many species of game, fabulous drives, excellent bird watching, hiding trails, horse riding. The Karee Kloof/Protea Hotel Resort in the vicinity of the park offers a host of entertainment, conference facilities as well as accommodation, caravan and camping facilities.

The travelers can also reach the area, through the old Johannesburg/Vereeniging road, the R28, which acts as

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a nerve supplier of the local traffic into the towns and farmlands. While the Golden Highway on the west, connects the travelers to the main town of Vanderbijlpark through to Sasolburg from Johannesburg.

Situated along the R59 free way, about 35 minutes drive from Johannesburg, is the historical monument, the Block House in the Midvaal. Block house was built by the British as a check-point during the Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902, to guard the railway line.

In 1902 the Transvaal and Orange Free State Republics had to make peace with the British at the treaty signed in Vereeniging that established South Africa as a unitary state in 1910 and the Boer Republics had to forfeit their independence. It is on record that during the negotiations that led to the signing of Vereeniging treaty, the Boers had pressed upon the British to incorporate the then three British protectorates in Southern Africa; Bechuanaland, now Botswana, Basutoland, now Lesotho and Swaziland into the union.

The British colonial governor in the Cape of Good Hope (Cape Town), who ruled over the then three British protectorates through district administrators based in Gaborone, Maseru and Mbabane respectively, decided to have a referendum on the matter and the result of that was a total NO vote by the citizens of these countries. Such hopes were further dashed in 1948, when the Afrikaner nationalist took over the government and gradually introduced apartheid policy.

Vereeniging or Sedibeng District located within the Southern part of highly industrialized Gauteng province does not only play a host to unfolding political history of the country but also offers a range of leisure and tourism activities.

The Boswell Wilkie Circus and Coffee Shop is quite near to the Blockhouse and offers a variety of entertainment throughout the year.

Approximately 15 to 20 km south-east of the Block House, travelers can experience a world of adventure at Bass Lake. Bass Lake Adventure is on Henley-on-Klip and its main attractions include world class scuba diving, catering for everyone, from first-timers to advance divers and instructor training. They also offer a host of other outdoor ventures, ranging from sight-seeing, birds watching, mountain bike riding, off-the-road 4x4 drive training to over night camping, with meals and drinks served at Bass Lake Restaurant.

There are many unique places of accommodation in Henley-on-Klip too, such as The Village Guest House, Chocolate Country Manor and Tree of Idleness Guest House and Health Spa, as well as various Restaurants and Coffee Shops.

In Walkerville along the R82 (Old Vereeniging road) through to De Deur, travelers can stay overnight at Tsedi Bed and Breakfast, Tsodi Farm House Guest in De Deur, Penny's Outpost, Thatcher's and Zodwa Bed and Breakfast in Sebokeng Zone 3; all of which offer adventurers a rest and tantalizing African cuisine.

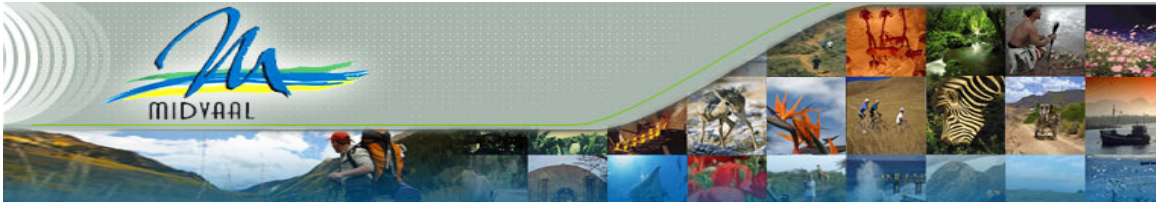
Molonjeni Guest Lodge about 27km south-east of Meyerton town, boasts conference facilities, camping sites and a vast area of wild life viewing. Molonjeni Guest Lodge's vast open space with braai facilities around, can be an ideal place in the Midvaal for fan parks for the 2010 World Cup Soccer tournament to be hosted by South Africa.

The Redan Rock Engravings are one of the two rock art sites in the Sedibeng Region. (the other is situated on a small island near the Ascot Bridge at Vanderbijlpark). A total number of 244 petroglyphs (rock engraving) have been identified at the site.

## ***2. Walkers Fruit Farms / De Deur Electrical Problems.***

**Thursday evening (20th Dec.) our area was hit by heavy winds which caused 4 pylons to be damaged. As a result Electrical supply was interrupted in the area, which lasted 16 hours. Eskom had to battle the storms to restore supply. Not only was that, but transformers in some areas also damaged. Our thanks to the Technicians that spent the night fixing the pylons.**

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### 3. Resealing of Roads.

As part of Midvaals program to keep our infructure in a good state of repair, certain roads will be resealed. Many roads in Daleside are in need of resealing, and have been included in the program.

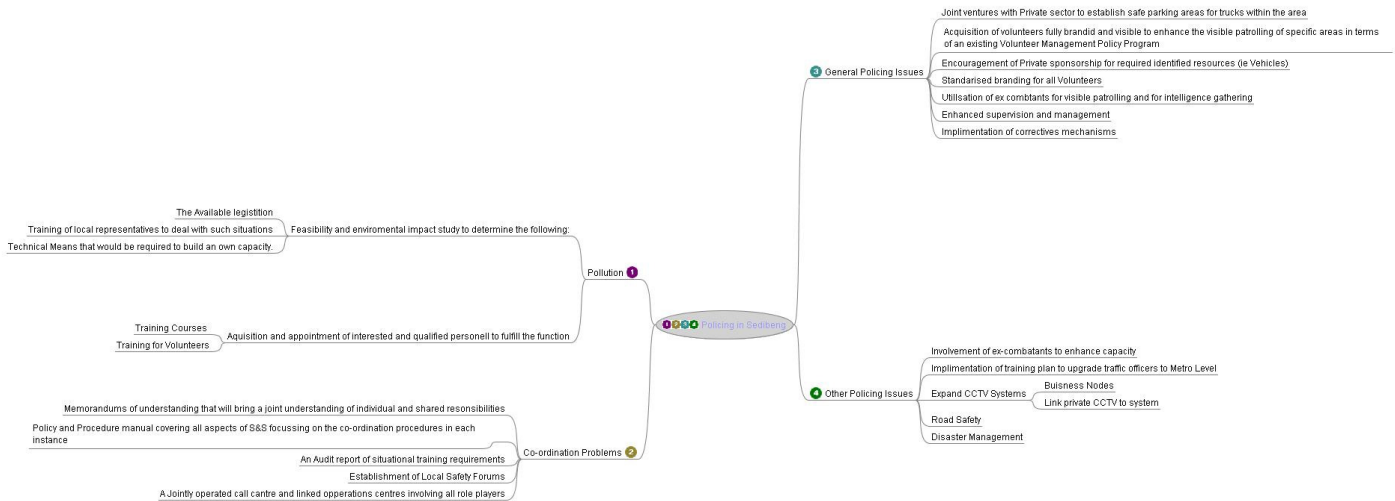
### 4. Sedibeng Policing Conference Highlights.

As we precede towards the 2010 World cup, approx 50% of our policing personnel will be deployed in the Metro centers to ensure that our overseas visitors are safe and secure. This means that criminals' will be forced out of these areas, and perhaps ply their trade in the outline areas. With less police, this poses a challenge to us. The Policing Conference was held at Parys, and various issues were looked at. Present was members from De Deur Police, Meyerton Police, Various Vaal Triangle Police, Traffic officers from the various Sedibeng Municipalities, Justice Department, Councilors, Municipal officials and other role players.

Stemming from this conference, a Safety Document will be produced for Sedibeng, with indicatives in place to secure our area.

Below is a Mind Map on the Policing side that was produced by the policing team.

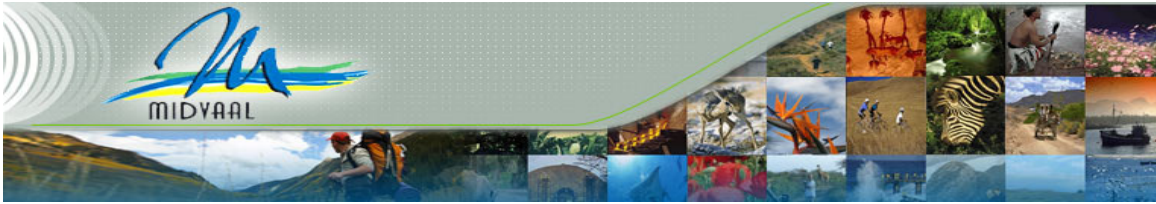
(To enlarge the mind map, just click on the + button on the tool bar to increase the size)



### 5. Security.

## Home Invasion Robbery

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# Protect Your Family with a Security Plan

by Chris E McGoey, CPP, CSP, CAM

## Home Invasion

One of the more frightening and potentially dangerous crimes that can occur to a family is a **home invasion robbery**. A home invasion is when robbers force their way into an occupied home, apartment or hotel room to commit a robbery or other crimes. It is particularly frightening because it violates our private space and the one place that we think of as our sanctuary.

Home invasion is like the residential form of an automobile carjacking and it's on the rise. Like the crime of carjacking, most police agencies don't track home invasions as a separate crime. Most police agencies and the FBI will statistically record the crime as a residential burglary or a robbery. Without the ability to track the specific crime of home invasion, little can be done to alert the public as to the frequency of occurrence in their community or devise a law enforcement plan of action to control it.

## Criminal Profile

Residential burglars work mostly during the day and when a residence is more likely to be unoccupied. Most burglars work alone and tend to probe a neighborhood looking for the right residence and the right opportunity. Alarm signs and decals, bars on windows, strong locks and doors, big dogs, and alert neighbors can sometimes deter burglars. Also, burglars will avoid a confrontation and will usually flee when approached. Most burglaries do not result in violence unless the criminal is cornered and uses force to escape.

Home invasion robbers, in contrast, work more often at night and on weekends when homes are more likely to be occupied. The home invader will sometimes target the resident as well as the dwelling. The selection process may include a woman living alone, a wealthy senior citizen or a known drug dealer, for example. It is not unheard of for a robber to follow you home based on the value of the car you are driving or the jewelry you are wearing. Some home invaders might have been in your home before as a delivery person, installer or repair vendor. Home robbers rarely work alone and rely on an overwhelming physical confrontation to gain initial control and instill fear in you. The greatest violence usually occurs during the initial sixty seconds of the confrontation and home invaders often come prepared with handcuffs, rope, duct tape, and firearms. Some in-home robbers appear to enjoy the intimidation, domination, and violence and some even claim it's a "rush."

## Dangerous Trends

The act of committing a home invasion is escalating much like carjacking. The reason for the increase seems to follow a similar pattern. Much like automobiles, the traditional commercial targets for robbers like convenience stores and fast-food restaurants have hardened themselves against criminal attack and have reduced available cash. Technology has allowed commercial establishments to install affordable video surveillance systems, silent alarms, and other anti-crime deterrent devices. A residence, by comparison, is now a more attractive choice.

Home invaders know that they won't have to overcome alarm systems when the home is occupied or be worried about video cameras and silent alarms. Unlike robbing a retail store, home invaders expect privacy once inside your home and won't have to deal with the police suddenly driving up or customers walking in. Once the offenders take control of a residence they can force the occupants to open safes, locate hidden valuables, supply keys to the family car, and PIN numbers to their ATM cards. Home invaders will try to increase their escape time by disabling the phones and sometimes will leave their victims bound or incapacitated. It is not unheard of for robbers to load up the victim's car with valuables and drive away without anyone in the neighborhood taking notice.

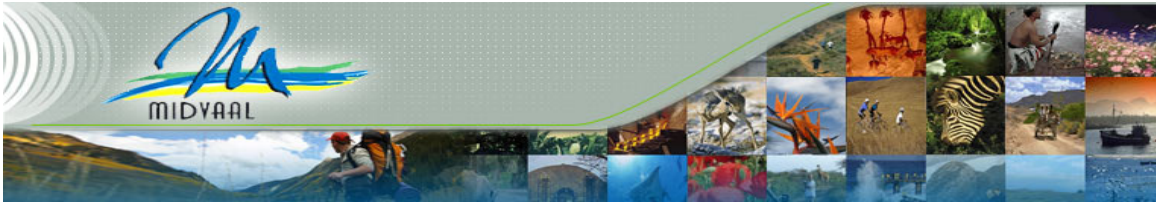
## Method of Operation

The most common point of attack is through the front door or garage. Sometimes the home invader will simply kick open the door and confront everyone inside. More common is when the home invaders knock on the door first or ring the bell. The home invader hopes that the occupant will simply open the door, without question, in response to their knock. Unfortunately, many people do just that.

Home invaders will sometimes use a ruse or impersonation to get you to open the door. They have been known to pretend to be delivering a package, flowers or lie about an accident like hitting your parked car. Once the door is opened for them, the home

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invaders will use an explosive amount of force and threats to gain control of the home and produce fear in the victims. Once the occupants are under control the robbers will begin to collect your valuables.

Some home robbers have been known to spend hours ransacking a residence while the homeowners are bound nearby watching in terror. Some robbers have been known to eat meals, watch TV, or even take a nap. A major fear is that the robbers might commit more violence like sexual assault or even murder. Some robbers have kidnapped and forced a victim to withdraw cash from their ATM machine or take them to their small business to rob it as well.

## **Prevention Steps**

The same tactics used to prevent daytime burglaries will go a long way to preventing forced entry home robberies. If you can delay a home invader at the point of entry then you have a chance of deterring them or have time to call the police. A solid core door, strong locks with reinforced strike plates, and reinforced window devices will stop most forced entries.. Some homeowners build safe rooms inside their home to allow them to retreat or escape the violence while giving them valuable time to call the police.

The weakest home security link is the home occupant who fails to lock doors or windows or who will open the door without question at the sound of a knock. The best defense against home invasion is education and planning. Parents should hold a family meeting to discuss how to answer the door when someone knocks. Another important topic is how to act should your home or family be invaded. Once you know how home robbers work, you can effectively prevent most occurrences.

### **Remember these important security steps:**

- Install solid core doors, heavy duty locks, and window security devices
- Lock all doors, windows, and garages at all times
- Use four three-inch screws to secure heavy duty lock strike plates in the door frame
- Use the door peephole BEFORE opening the door
- Use your porch light to help you to see clearly outside
- Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door
- Never open the door to strangers or solicitors
- Call the police if the stranger acts suspicious
- Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors
- Hold a family meeting to discuss home security plans
- Set the home perimeter alarm at night, if you have one

## ***6. Do Not Forget the Following Meetings.***

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: Sector Police Meeting 19H15 at Walkerville show grounds**

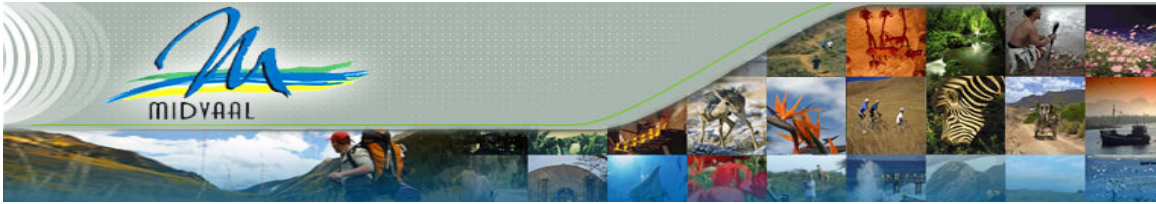
**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Klip River Police Forum 18H00 at Klip River Police Station**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday: De Deur Police Forum 18H00 at De Deur Police Station Conference room**

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: Teterfield Security Meeting 19H30 at the Air Field**

### ***Notice:***

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**The 2007 Makietie is scheduled for Friday the 30th November 2007 in Loch Street Meyerton. The Makietie boasts lots of stalls hanging with mouth watering foods, gifts and curios. Guest stars such as: Eden, Kurt Darren, Patricia Lewis, the Campbells, Shine 4 and Anton Goosen will visit and perform at the Makietie.**

**You cannot afford to miss this annual event!!**

**For more information please contact Mr. Danie Meyer on 016 360 7571**

**Or Celest Hoffman on 016 360 7416.**

**Please report any Water leaks that you may see, as we are trying to eliminate water losses in our area.**

**Let's keep our streets clean and tidy; I have noticed that there is a lot of litter on our sidewalks, as well as illegal dumping.**

**Many thanks to all who have helped to make our area a better area.**

1. *Have a problem, want action:* [www.biblebeliever.co.za/helpdesk](http://www.biblebeliever.co.za/helpdesk) (fill in the top section)
2. *Just want me to contact you:* [www.biblebeliever.co.za/helpdesk](http://www.biblebeliever.co.za/helpdesk) (fill in the contact me section)

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