

Fast & furious: safety crisis

They're fast, fun and can go just about anywhere. However, indulging children with All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), also known as quad bikes, might seem like a good idea as 'reward', but please ensure that they wear protective gear and take basic training.

ATVs don't require a driver's licence - so many parents think they're a safe 'toy' for kids. But as their popularity soars, more and more young riders are paying a painful price. Every year, thousands of children are sent to the emergency room with serious and often debilitating injuries from ATV accidents.

When a 30-kg kid is on a 90-kg vehicle and that vehicle flips over on top of the child, the vehicle wins. It smashes their bones, busts their spleen, liver and brain. Part of the problem is that kids are riding ATVs that are too big for them. There are smaller machines made for children, but many parents simply buy one full-size model for the whole family.

"ATVs aren't toys. They're vehicles. Safety experts say what's needed is mandatory training for young riders. According to



these experts, more than 90 percent of injuries in children are caused by improper driver behaviour. They're riding without the right protective gear such as a safety helmet, padding and goggles. Plus they're riding without supervision. They should never ride on public roads and never carry a passenger.

Driving an ATV isn't child's play. You have to know how to position your body, operate the controls and use enormous strength in manoeuvring the ATV

around corners - more than many children could muster.

To keep your kids safe on ATVs: ensure they're riding the right size ATV; enrol them in a training course; make sure they wear a helmet and protective gear; and always supervise your children while they're riding.

That said, please remember only licensed vehicles are allowed on the estate roads - so, no quad bikes.



Often seen on lawns, the African Hoopoe uses its long bill to probe for insects such as butterflies, bees, wasps, locusts and ants - sometimes small lizards too. Seeds or berries are eaten in very small quantities. Nesting in a hole that it finds

Generally found either singly or in pairs, the African Hoopoe isn't a sociable bird. Occasionally small loose flocks are seen during migration season. Distributed throughout Africa, Europe, Tropical Asia and Madagascar, this bird can be found

almost anywhere - in a tree, bank, or the ground - it doesn't make the hole itself. *Upupa Africana* derives its common name from the 'hoop-hoop' call it makes.

There's some debate about whether the African Hoopoe and the Eurasian Hoopoe are two species or simply subspecies of *Upupa epops*. In the field they can be distinguished through overall colouration.

Hoop-hoop

in gardens, savanna, woodland and thornveld.

It has a height of 26 cm and weighs around 57 gm. The head is coloured cinnamon with brown eyes, while the bill is black. It has a cinnamon-coloured throat, grey legs and a cinnamon back. The male's physical features are slightly different from the female bird. Monogamous, the African Hoopoe female lays between 4 to 7 blue-coloured eggs.

These invertebrates usually are hawked aerially, killed and then eaten.

Sources:

www.birdsinsa.com, www.savenues.com,
www.bushveld.co.za

Busy bees

Our landscaping teams are as busy as bees. The 11-year-old *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* on Driftwood Way is way past its lifespan, but apart from this, the high vegetation poses a security problem. The estate's canine patrol team needs free

“With all the spring specials during September, the nursery recorded good sales”

access to this area. So, the landscapers are taking these *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* shrubs out and replacing them with *plectranthus* – a low-growing, low-maintenance and water-wise shrub.

The grass trials on Beach Drive have been extremely successful. After eradicating the kikuyu with a natural herbicide, the cynodon grass is growing beautifully. And now that the Main Gate entrance upgrade is complete, residents will be able to enjoy this area in full bloom by December.

Because sand or vegetation touching the electrified fence line had resulted in false alarms in the past, the teams did a massive clean-up. From now on the fence line will be kept in shape by having one person on fence line duty every day.



With all the spring specials during September, the nursery recorded good sales. Keep your eyes peeled for another batch of special offers in December.



baboon, hence the common name baboon spider.

Southern Africa has a rich fauna of baboon spiders, represented by seven genera and 42 species. They belong to the family *Theraphosidae*. The baboon spiders are large and hairy with a body size of 13-90 mm. Colour varies between brown, grey, yellow to black hues.

They're ground living and construct silk-lined burrows or retreat under stones

and rocks. Some theraphosids are known to deliver painful bites. *Harpactira lightfooti*, which occurs between Cape Town and Paarl, are fairly aggressive and produce a neurotoxic venom. However, bites are never fatal.

“Some theraphosids are known to deliver painful bites”

Owing to the demand for baboon spiders as pets they're classified as Commercially Threatened as per the IUCN system. Therefore they may not be collected, transported or kept without a permit.

Killing ban

Spring and summer bring out all the creepy crawlies. But please take note, being a nature reserve we have a no-kill policy. So, if anyone is confronted by snakes or horror of horrors, the dreaded baboon spiders, call security. These guys will then be removed and relocated to safety. Being an arachnophobic, no photos of these hairy monsters will accompany the article!

“Southern Africa has a rich fauna of baboon spiders”

Baboon spiders or tarantulas, as they're known outside Africa, are the giants of the spider world. The last two leg segments resemble the finger of a

Woof, woof, woof



“Very trying really. Bert's neighbours' dog barked all night and just as he was taking that putt, he barked again!”

Parking issues

Uncertainty prevails about the estate's parking policy. We hope to provide clarity in this article. ABHOA trustees would prefer understanding and co-operation from members to eliminate or reduce the necessity for parking penalties/fines.

Every erf must provide off-street parking for at least two cars in addition to garaging. Driveways should be a maximum of 6 m wide at the road reserve, while any two double driveways must be separated by at least 1 m soft landscaping. Where your current off-street paved parking coverage allows for more than two parking areas, you're welcome to explore this alternative with estate management. Should your driveway length be limited, please park as close to your garage as possible to ensure no part of your vehicle interferes with the pavement/walkway. Please note that cumulatively paving shouldn't cover more than 25% of each erf's remaining area after construction, while a minimum of 25% should be soft landscaping.

Unless written consent is obtained, a member, resident or visitor may park a passenger vehicle or bakkie only in: a garage, carport, parking bay, general demarcated parking area or on a hardened area on the resident's erf.

From an aesthetic viewpoint, boats, caravans and trailers may not be parked outside garages except where they're not visible from the roadside or golf course. The exception is when the member intends using the vehicle, in which case it may be parked in a driveway

or off-street for 24 hours before and after use. Only where these vehicles are too large to fit in driveways or off-street parking should permission be requested from management to park along the roadside.

Pedestrians have right of way at all times on the estate, including roads, pavements and walkways. Obviously wherever pavements exist, pedestrians are expected to use these, but unfortunately adequate pavements couldn't be accommodated in certain areas.

To minimise pavement and walkway obstruction, motorists should park in an appropriate and courteous manner. When members have visitors, ensure that your garages, driveways and off-street parking are fully utilised before allowing visitors to park along the road. If parking has to spill out onto the road, please do so opposite the footpath – in other words, no parking on footpaths.

With management's permission, it's an option to park on a vacant erf with two wheels on the erf and two wheels on the pavement so as to allow pedestrians pavement access. However, parking on the road with two wheels on the pavement/walkway and two in the road is not permitted.

Special parking circumstances include building and moving. On a construction site a minimum of two vehicles can park on site, but some hardening of the erf surface is required, be it bricks or granite stone. Dependent on location, and with



management's permission, up to three additional vehicles may park with two wheels on the pavement and two on the road.

When moving, furniture removal vehicles should park on site. But, with permission, they may park on the road, allowing other vehicles to pass.

Penalties and/or fines will be imposed when there's flagrant disregard of the parking policy or instances where inconsiderate parking causes inconvenience and/or complaints to management.



Fright night

*Tonight is the night
To have a great fright
Don't be surprised nor scared
Just be prepared.*

*Brush up your brooms
Polish your bats
Clean your fangs
And sparkle your hats
Halloween Night is near,
my folks.*

Halloween originated from a Celtic festival and it's believed that the Irish began the tradition of trick or treating. In preparation for All Hallows's

Eve, Irish townfolk would ask neighbours for food to contribute towards a feast in town.

As is customary, the estate provides Halloween fun for the kids at 15h30 on Sunday 31 October. Make sure to dress to the nines: children aged 0-3 meet in Colebrook Park, age 4-6 gather in Norfolk Village Park and those aged 7-12 assemble in Park 1 in front of the Club House. Then all will embark on a treat walk-about to selected homes. For teenagers (age 12-plus), there's a bash at the Leisure Centre with horror movies, a cooldrink, sweets and a boerie roll.

Fitness queen

Once again, Kim Bland, a beauty therapist on the estate, recently walked away with the Mr & Mrs SA Pagaent: Ms Fitness title. Next up in November she'll be competing in the America Ms Fitness competition in Las Vegas. Good luck!



Top honours

Estate resident Robyn Griffin is the recipient of the 2010 International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) award for South Africa - one of 26 awardees from 11 countries. Applications for this award are presented to the respective Chambers of Commerce for international adjudication.



This year Cape Town hosted the award ceremony and five-day conference, which has as its main objective the promotion of international dialogue and business interests between women entrepreneurs. The incredible IWEC success in Cape Town has been ascribed to the tireless efforts of another estate resident, Anni Bodington, who was one of the 2007 awardees.

Safety first

Motorbike riders, cyclists and skateboard riders must wear helmets on the estate when plying their sporting talents or riding. Only licensed vehicles are allowed on estate roads, so sorry, but scooters are a no-no. Yet parents should ensure that when their children do ride a scooter elsewhere, they should wear protective headgear.



An estate resident was involved in a serious accident on an Atlantic Beach road recently while driving with a child on her lap talking away on a cell phone. This

is sheer madness! Please remember that normal road rules apply on the estate. Children should be buckled up in the back and no cell phones in hand while driving. Oh yes: only a licensed driver may drive a golf cart.

Safety first on our estate!

A fair(way) walk



Atlantic Beach Management has announced that estate residents may walk on the golf course before 7h00 and after 19h00. In other words, no access to the golf course is permitted between 7h00 and 19h00. Any enquiries in this regard may be made directly to ABM on 021 5532223.

Security boffin

Ever vigilant about saving costs, ABHOA sent security manager Jerome Davids for extensive training to enable in-house installation and maintenance of essential security systems. First up was an electrical fencing course: installation, maintenance and programming. This was followed by CCTV installation, maintenance and component usage and thereafter replacement and repairs of access control gate and garage motors.

Watch out

Residents are urged to join the estate's sector watches. Each of the five estate sectors has a watch coordinator supported by a committee. Security manager Jerome Davids asked residents to join these committees by linking themselves to the sms system. The way it works is that when a committee member receives an sms about a security alert, he/she should switch on external lights, contact the relevant sector coordinator and survey the area. As the



Control Room will be abuzz, please don't ring them directly unless you have critical information about the security incident.