

Meow

Based on a mitochondrial DNA study of 979 domestic and wild cats from Europe, Asia, and Africa, the African Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris lybica*) split off from the European wild cat about 173 000 years ago and from the Asian subspecies *Fs ornata* and *Fs cafra* about 131 000 years ago.

Resembling a tabby, the African Wild Cat is larger than the household cat, with longer legs, shorter tail, a distinct gait and characteristic rufous colouring on the backs of the ears. Females weigh between 2,6 and 5,5 kg, while males clock in at 3,8 to 6,4 kg. The footprints of the African Wild Cat are similar in shape and size to those of the domestic cat.

When near human settlements it interbreeds with the domestic cat, with the result that pure-bred African Wild Cats are no longer easy to find. They're shy and mostly nocturnal, preferring a habitat of dense bush and long grass. Despite being adept tree climbers, they spend most of their time on the ground. Mice, rats and small birds are their



favoured prey, but they also feed on arthropods, as well as hares and rabbits. They stalk their prey before pouncing, lick their fur into shape, wash their face with their forepaws and sharpen their claws on tree trunks.

African Wild Cats have similar vocalisations to a domestic cat: they mew, purr, hiss and spit, but with greater noise. Mating occurs between July and

January with a gestation period of 65 days. Litters of two to five, averaging three, are born during summer from September to March in disused burrows of other animals. Kittens stay with their mother for five to six months and are fertile after one year.

Sources: Wikipedia; krugerpark.co.za; ecotravel.co.za



The controversial issue of obtaining Consent to Transfer from ABHOA prior to selling a home has raised its head again. According to this regulation, a house and garden have to comply with ABHOA's Architectural Manuals, Plant List, Rules and so forth.

Estate manager Markus Savage said,

Highlighting Consent to Transfer

"Estate management is subjected to constant verbal abuse about this issue. Therefore, we draw members' attention to the fact that we neither deliberately hold homeowners' to ransom nor enjoy instructing homeowners to spend their hard-earned money on rectifying their

homes prior to selling. It's simply our obligation to ensure that buyers receive a home and garden in full compliance with all ABGE requirements."

He continued, "We derive no pleasure from telling a recent widow, or a father who has to sell the family home at a loss due to the current economic

climate, that we can't approve the property sale unless certain rectification works are undertaken."

New committee

The new ABHOA committee elected at the December AGM are: Joseph Stoltz (chairman), Don Austen (marketing and communications), Roland Kugelmann (building and environment), Kevin Martin (security) and Nico van der Walt (finance and administration).

Fun, fun, fun

Remember, there are lots to do at the Leisure Centre: yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, belly dancing on Wednesdays, photography on Thursdays and daily toning classes at the gym.

Please note that for health and safety reasons, the pedestrian service pool gate will be locked at all times. And speaking of the pool, it will be closed during June and July for relining plus pump replacement, which should put paid to the pool going green as has been the case during the hot weather.

Easter is always a fun time on the estate and this year is no exception. After the

traditional Easter egg hunt for the kids at 8h00, an Easter brunch will be served.

The Leisure Centre welcomes hosting private functions for residents with active memberships. It lends itself to weddings, birthday parties, children's parties, braais and any other festivity. Up to 60 people can be accommodated and although the function room will be exclusive, the centre itself can't be hired exclusively.

A not so fun topic is the fact that young



children have been caught drinking alcohol and smoking 'hubbly bubbly' at the centre. And remember, children aged 12 and under visiting the gym must be accompanied by an adult.

Garden snippets

In the garden competition for residents this year's winners were: first prize to Alison Grinnell, second to Charlie Hurst and third to Malcolm Judd. The landscaping competition was won by 'Victory', the team maintaining the Sea Hare and Nautilus Circle areas.

Nursery and landscape manager Tony Beaton reported that children were vandalising the flower beds. Parents, please ensure that your children aren't engaging in this vandalism.



Alison Grinnell's winning garden.



High as a kite

*"Check that one...
under 12,
unsupervised by
an adult and under
the influence!"*

Approval a must

Before putting up antennae, satellite dishes, solar heating, air-conditioning, swimming pools, doll houses, play structures, dog kennels, etc, residents must obtain written approval from the Home Owners Association.

Estate manager Markus Savage said this was according to Rule 47 of the ABHOA Rules, Guidelines and Code of Conduct. "This includes any building activity, alteration, installation or decoration pertaining to any erf or building. Failure to comply with the requirement will result in costly rectification works."

On par

On 1 January this year, the Home Owners Association took control of the golf course and clubhouse leases and subleased these in turn to Atlantic Beach Golf Club Ltd, a company owned by debenture holders made up of existing golf members and home owners.

The new lease holders want to make the clubhouse the hub of the estate and they've invited residents to become members and make use of the facilities: bars, a restaurant and banqueting. To become a member, simply apply for a resident's membership, but note that this doesn't provide golf course access. For this you'll still need the normal golf club membership as before.

Come party it up at the clubhouse and restaurant which operate on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 18h00 until close, with entertainment provided for children. Guest chef Jean Nel changes the family-friendly restaurant menu weekly.



Unlike the former strict dress code, casual is in at the bars, clubhouse and restaurant. And there are some exciting 'specials'. On Fridays from six to eight there are sundowner specials: complimentary bar snacks and three different spirits at R15 per tot, plus house wines. Enjoy happy

hour on Saturdays from six to seven: complimentary bar snacks and buy one drink, get one free. And on Sundays there's a traditional carvery lunch.

Don't forget to book for the Easter lunch on Sunday 24 April.



Gaining access

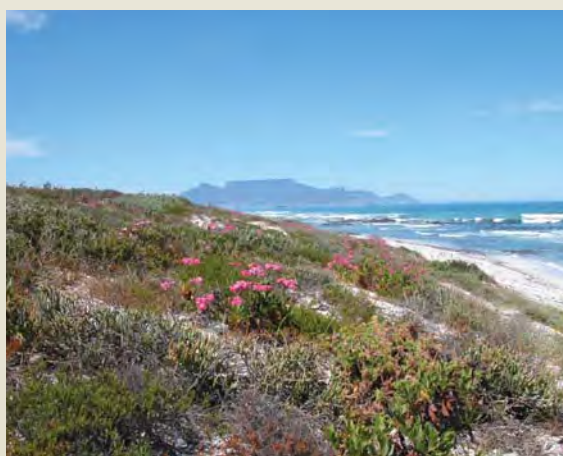
Pedestrian access points have become a thorny issue. Note that pedestrian access is permitted only at the beach and main gates. No pedestrians are allowed through in the vehicular access lanes – not only does this create a security risk when the booms are left standing open for a good few seconds, it's also not safe. A resident using his fingerprint to open the pedestrian gate will be responsible for any unwanted persons that might follow through behind him/her. The same applies to accompanying friends or family.

Cyclists are requested to use biometrics to access or exit the estate. Security manager Jerome Davids said failure to adhere to this security measure would result in a fine. "Cyclists who don't obtain fingerprint access commit the same serious security offences as boom hoppers and tailgaters."

While on the subject of access, parents are responsible for the whereabouts of their children. This includes parental consent for a minor to be enrolled onto the biometric access control system. In this instance, security can't be held accountable for people the minor might allow into the estate in his/her presence. The parents are accountable.

Become a friend

The Friends of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area (FoBCA) is a voluntary group of concerned citizens who have the mission to contribute to protecting and utilising the BCA for the benefit of the general public now and in years to come. It's affiliated to WESSA Western Cape. BCA's vision is to conserve, protect and enhance the unique, natural, historical and cultural resources of the area for enjoyment and education purposes.



organisations throughout South Africa, FoBCA organises outings and events for members and other interested persons.

Similar to the Friends of Rietvlei (who did sterling work in saving the vlei from being developed) and other similar Friends

To find out more about this unique area or to become a friend, please visit www.bca.org.za.

Temp jobs for school leavers

2010 matriculants looking for temporary employment are invited to apply for a variety of jobs in various departments at the clubhouse: child minding, waitrons, cooks, golf cart attendants, reception and administration. This is an excellent opportunity for unemployed resident school leavers to gain valuable work experience in a fun and vibrant atmosphere without having to travel outside the estate. Salary/wages are at student rates. Send CVs to enquiries@atlanticbeach.co.za; subject: AB resident CV.

Lost it?

Both Security and the Leisure Centre have loads of lost items: clothing, shoes, diving gear, etc. The security office keeps a record of where and when the items were found. Lost property is kept for three months after which the items will be donated to a charity organisation. To claim lost property, a resident must describe the item and sign for it at the estate office.



Wandering pets

Lost pets still remain a problem. It's an estate requirement to microchip your pets and that cats should have a collar with a bell. Bells are available at the estate office.

Report lost pets to security. Lost cats without identification are sent to the SPCA and dogs to the pound in Atlantis. Security manager Jerome Davids said the estate didn't have the facilities to house dogs and cats for longer than 12 hours.

When a pet is found wandering unattended, a spot fine is issued immediately.



'Miracles' on TV

The Leisure Centre was a hive of activity on 6 December as the film crew from SABC 3's breakfast show *Expresso* arrived to film resident Atlantic Beach moms with their miracles learning through play in their Mothers and Miracles educational classes. And the babies and children were absolute naturals in front of the camera.



Front: Jacky (*Mothers and Miracles*), residents Cheryl with Jack, Roshni with Jarryd and Nicolette with Lucca. Back: Ashley (*Leisure Centre*), Janie (*Expresso*), Dawn (*Leisure Centre*), Manny (*Expresso*), Julian (*Expresso*) and Bernadette with Jeanie.

Expresso showcases creative and fun-filled children's activities. Mothers and Miracles specialises in fun learning experiences for babies and toddlers. The staff at the Leisure Centre went the extra mile in hosting the film shoot, making sure that the venue was immaculate and the refreshments delicious.

Silence is golden

A plea is made to residents to assist security with the noise created by domestics when they walk to their place of work. Please ask your domestics to refrain from shouting at one another and speaking at the top of their voices. Said Jerome Davids, "Other residents might still be asleep or sick residents/children may want some peace and quiet."



"After warning domestics, security will be issuing spot fines in future and the employer will be held liable."

Domestic donations

Atlantic Beach security personnel do not frisk or body search domestics or their personal belongings. This will only be done on request to assist residents. Said security manager Jerome Davids, "Domestics don't usually enter the estate with big black bags; therefore, security won't ask the domestic(s) to divulge the bag's contents or request a gate pass." He said a resident definitely should give permission in writing for a domestic to remove any goods from the estate. If a domestic can't provide written proof of goods, security will contact the resident to confirm such goods were indeed given to the domestic.





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