

Our thanks to the municipality for clearing the beach of storm debris ahead of our tourist season.

As far as the cutting of the common is concerned, the thick clover is problematic and is to be sprayed with a herbicide called Turfweeder. However, we have been warned by the municipality that it will leave the grass a little brownish for a while.

Following last month's newsletter containing a report of wide-spread criminal activity in Wilderness Heights, a Neighbourhood Watch has been formed in that area, which will tie in with the Wilderness Neighbourhood Watch, meeting at the Fairy Knowe at 17h00 on the evening of the last Monday of each month. We can report that incidents of crime were a little lower last month, although 5 burglaries have been reported so far this past week. A word of warning to our out-of-town members and visitors who stop off at Dolphin Point to watch the whales and scenic sights. The back window of a visitor's car was recently smashed but the door not opened, so the alarm did not activate. They were cleaned out of everything that was behind the back seat and under the "cover". This is the latest in a number of incidents at Dolphin Point, and a result of growing desperation among those who have lost their jobs during this time of economic difficulties. We thus urge you and/or your visitors to offload all valuables before sight-seeing trips.

Members with old electricity meters should check that you are still receiving the free 20 monthly kilowatts when purchasing power. Should this not be the case, the contact is Charles on 044-873-5474, who will replace your meter with a new model and include the additional 20 units. Similarly, please check your water readings regularly to ensure there are no leakages and as a means of checking water bills.

We have received a number of enquiries recently regarding a contact number for the recycling company, whose number has changed. The greater Wilderness area is serviced by agent Awie, who can be contacted on 072-234-2953 for all recycling queries.

The poor condition of our roads has been a sore point for some time, and we have been advised by Cncl. Van Wyk that potholes will be attended to, starting from last week. With regard to Constantiakloof, the engineering department will attend to a more comprehensive resealing from next month. Grading of gravel roads has been done.

The executive mayoral committee has ruled on beach braais as follows:

- a) council condones the decision to allow braai-ing at all beaches under its control, including Leentjiesklip;
- b) that the bylaw be amended to prohibit people from bringing alcohol and drugs into any public amenity under control of the George municipality;
- c) that the use of braai stands be limited, from 08:00 until 18:00 daily
- d) that the braai areas at all beaches be policed on a daily basis; and
- e) that the braai times be displayed at all the braai areas.

Notice boards will be put up as soon as possible. The law enforcement division has been informed of the decisions, as they will do the policing.

There are signs of various businesses in Wilderness gearing up ahead of the coming holiday season, and we applaud them for taking a positive stance for the future of our village. We currently have a vacancy on the committee for the Economic Development and Tourism portfolio, and are looking for a volunteer/businessman/woman to fill this position. Interested parties can contact the secretary or chairman on 044-877-1370.

Our Wilderness East members should note that the shop at the Waves Caltex garage between the Wilderness Beach Hotel and The Views closes today for approximately two weeks to allow for its expansion into a fruit and vegetable section. The owners are setting up a container for the purchase of basic food items in the interim.

We end with early notification of the date of our AGM being Monday 19th December at 18:00, at a venue to be advised; and are also pleased to advise that WRRRA has once more been allocated a seat on the Ward Committee for the next four years, by a closely contested vote. We would also like to express our appreciation to the refuse collection team, who continued with their duties during the municipal strike action, and award them five gold stars!