

The municipality has issued notices to several owners of vacant stands to have their property cleared of weeds and alien shrubbery. The following are the names of some contractors whom affected members can contact for quotations, courtesy of Pam Golding:

Henry Manders:	henrymanders@absamail.co.za	082 348 6476
Kelvin Cornish:	cuttinghedge@vodamail.co.za	079 062 4423
Corrine Roff:	roff@telkomsa.net	083 368 2689
Jenny Harding:	Delightful Gardens, Kingfisher Close	074 337 0035

No indigenous growth may be removed from the ground, and any clearing should be done under the supervision of an environmental officer.

With the South African Census process beginning, many warnings have been given to residents to be alert for con artists. Do not ask people you are unsure of into your house, but do be co-operative in answering questions about how many people live in your home, together with age and race. Census workers will carry an identity badge, handheld device and census bureau canvas bag. Do not give I.D. numbers or any banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the census.

In support of fellow Ratepayers Associations, we pass on news of Hoekwil's annual Oktoberfest to be held from 12:00 till late at Beyond the Moon on Saturday 29th October. Entrance fee is R20, or R75 for a pre-booked ticket which includes a German meal. The secretary has tickets available (contact 044-877-1370) or enquiries can be made via Brigitte on 044-850-1642, Jenny on 044-850-1526 and Liz 044-850-1536.

The bowling green at De Oude Karos Hotel in the village hub is back in use once more after its month-long upgrade. Anyone interested in joining this social bowling club can contact Roy or Judy Chilton on 044-877-0343. The Croquet season at the same venue opens at 3.30p.m. on Friday 21st October. The green fees are reasonably priced and the club is looking for new members, equipment provided. Contact Chris Eckford on 044-883-1059 for croquet enquiries.

The number of burglaries in Wilderness has increased sharply, but many homes have seemingly been targeted due to poor security, or no safety precautions taken at all. Times are changing and it is essential that you either fence your property, put in an alarm system, or at least put security gates on your doors if you are going to leave them unlocked. Unfortunately, the days of being laid-back in Wilderness are over, and we cannot emphasize enough the need to adequately secure your properties. The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held at 5pm on Monday 31st October at the Fairy Knowe Hotel, and we urge members to support their efforts.

In closing, the village mini market has applied for a full bottle store liquor licence. The Association has lodged a preliminary objection to this application, but we would like to hear from our members whether you are for, or against, having a bottle store in Wilderness village. The Liquor Licencing Board hearing is to be held on the 27th October, so your urgent input is needed please.