

It has been mentioned that one or two members feel WRRRA is slow to broadcast our successes, so we are pleased to advise that after last month's meeting with the municipal officials, the proliferation of illegal signs in Wilderness is about to be dealt with. Some have already been removed from the village area by the municipality, who have also pointed out that approval for all signage must be in writing. Praise must also be given to the refuse collection team who worked into Tuesday evening to complete their work, after experiencing a breakdown with one of their vehicles, together with the threat of strike action the next morning. A letter of appreciation has been sent to the head of the department.

One of our members has also praised George's Emergency Services hotline personnel for attending to a water meter leak one evening, within half an hour of the problem being reported

Members registered on our Turn-It-Around crime watch website will already know of the break-in by burglars through an open window in a unit at the Wilderness Garden Estate, resulting in an assault on the occupant last month. Several break-ins also took place last weekend in Wilderness East, some of which were not reported by residents on our Turn-It-Around website. We urge you to take a look at www.turnitaround.co.za/network/wrra. We need as many local members as possible to join this site, and assist with warnings to other members in the area. All registered users will automatically receive an email and/or SMS giving details of recent crimes. Most importantly – please do not leave unguarded doors and windows open at night. You risk becoming the next casualty. It is essential that residents tighten up on security. Suspected vehicles to watch out for are a red double cab with an ND registration, an old white Kombi and an old white Landrover. Also be aware of a respectable looking couple selling trinkets, who could well be assessing your possessions and security measures.

With the assistance of Eden's Environmental officer and WESSA, Wilderness is to apply for Blue Flag status for a small stretch of beach between the Touw River bridge and Salinas Restaurant during December and January. The rules are strict for Blue Flag status and this area has been selected for its parking facilities and ablution block, which is to be upgraded by Sanparks, among other requirements. It will also become a no-go area for dogs, and we ask our dog-loving members to respect this limitation on such a short stretch of beach for such a short period of time. The benefit of having a Blue Flag status beach in Wilderness far outweighs this small inconvenience.

The municipality has recognized that there is a problem with the recent property valuations. WRRRA has undertaken a detailed analysis of the roll which shows one third of properties seriously undervalued (which places a heavy burden on other homeowners), one third of properties are over-valued and only one third are close to market value.

This week saw the start of maintenance work on Kaaimans. Every expansion joint on that section of the N2 is to be fixed, and the job is expected to last until the end of the year. There will be no stop-starts, but only one lane in each direction will be open until completion. Unfortunately, the Saarsveld Road is still in a state of collapse just beyond the Silver River bridge, and repairs are expected to take 2 ½ months.

To end with a reminder on health issues for those who replaced your old incandescent light bulbs with environmentally-friendly CFLs, that these items also contain a high level of mercury, and should be handled with great care. CFLs can only be disposed of in specially allocated bins at the back entrance to Woolworths in Meade Street and at the Pick 'n Pay Centre off Knysna Road in George. Please do not place used CFLs in your refuse bags.

