

It's municipal budget time once more, when our rates and services are determined for the 2012/13 budgetary year. A meeting will take place on Tuesday next week (17<sup>th</sup>) at 7p.m. at the Touwsrante Community Hall, when Council is to present its budget. Once more we urge our local members to show a presence. Despite a prevalent attitude of despair that nothing can be changed, it is important that we make our voice heard above the political decisions affecting how our money is spent.

The George Community Policing Forum seems to be getting its act together at last. This week's meeting was well attended for the first time in months, and we have been given the following feedback relating to the recent spate of burglaries in Wilderness. Two arrests have been made, and it is thought that the culprits are from Sedgefield. SAPS have again emphasized that residents are their own worst enemies and continue to be negligent about securing doors and windows. Your family's safety is at stake here as criminals become more desperate. You are also asked to look out for a green Mazda bakkie registered CAW58194, a Toyota white double cab CAW49815 and either the same vehicle or one similar with the registration plates CAW83154.

Please note that Eskom have announced a further planned power shut-down for 22nd April from 5am – 9pm and be aware that criminals could take advantage of this opportunity. We have received complaints about dogs that continue to be a nuisance with their endless barking, which completely defeats the objective of pets being used as protection and for giving warnings. Owners of troublesome dogs are asked to please control your animals, or at least bring them inside at night to avoid further annoying the neighbours.

The Wilderness Bowling & Croquet Club would like to thank Pomodoro for sponsoring the forthcoming Fun Day at 9a.m. on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Beginners, pros, young and old are welcome. There will be woods available if you don't have your own. For further enquiries, contact Roy or Judy on 044-877-0343 or Babette on 044-877-1577.

Progress in obtaining Blue Flag status for the beach at NSRI has been problematic as no budget is available for the necessary lifeguards. Ecoli levels in the lagoon are also high when the mouth of the river is closed. However, a recycle and a waste bin will be placed at the entrance to the NSRI beach.

On a related matter, NSRI have appealed for help in saving lives by making a minimum monthly donation of only R25. With this donation you will also stand a chance of winning R10,000, to be drawn each month. Contact David Knight-Dawson of the NSRI ([monthlydraw@searescue.org.za](mailto:monthlydraw@searescue.org.za)) for more information.

Once again we appeal to residents who need to place their refuse bags outside prior to collection days, to either obtain a wheelie bin or refuse stand, to prevent the pollution of the area by animals who tear the bags open. Transnet has contracted someone to clean up and clear alien vegetation along the railway track, although only to the minimum standard required by legislation.

Contrary to the impression that may have been given by the front page story in the Wild News about the opening of the liquor store in the village being a fait accompli, we are still pursuing the lack of procedural transparency surrounding the supposed granting of the licence. Our numerous requests and ultimatums, over the last three months, for the Chairman of the Liquor Board to

provide us with his comprehensive reasons for granting the license remain unacknowledged. In view of this, we have taken the advice of our attorneys and decided to pursue the matter through the courts. The first step has been to request an undertaking from the liquor store not to open until we have received all relevant information from the Liquor Board, failing which, we will apply for an urgent interdict to prevent the opening until such information has been made available to us.