

LETTERS

City slow to fix our streetlights

I HAVE tried all the relevant avenues to have the streetlights, on Star Street, in Woodhurst, Chatsworth, fixed, but to no avail.

The streetlights stopped working on 8 December 2006 and the city's Electricity Department has done nothing to remedy matters.

I, and other residents, called the toll-free number (0800 331 022) on numerous occasions, but all we have heard are many different reasons for the delay in repairing the lights.

When we first reported the matter on 11 December, we were promised things would be back to normal within 10 working days. Ten days passed and the lights stayed dead. When we phoned again we were told that all staff were on leave and would only return to work on 27 December. We phoned again on the 27th and were told the staff would only be at work on the 3 January.

Eventually, we decided to fax our report to the streetlights division.

On 3 January our streetlights worked, but little did we know it was only going to be a few days before they went off again. They went dead on 6 January, barely three days after they were repaired.

Our ward councillor, Jonathan Naidoo, furnished us with contact details of some of the electricity department's officials (that

is, Thulani, Irwin and Audrey). I have tried contacting them since 11 January but to no avail.

The broken lights meant we had to spend Christmas and New Year in relative darkness, which detracted from the spirit of the season. I had visitors from Rustenberg and Australia and they have left with a bad impression of the city.

The darkness also created an opportunity for criminals. Opposite Star Street is the notorious Woodhurst Park, a haven for criminals and vagrants. There has recently been an attempted break-in at one resident's home because of the darkness.

On 12 January I faxed the above complaint to the city manager's office.

As a loyal, ratepaying citizen, I, and many of my neighbours, are greatly disappointed.

S GANAPATHIE
Chatsworth

THE complaint was attended to on January 17.

A short circuit between the live and the neutral connections was cleared.

Further communication was made, the morning after the repairs had been completed, to Mr Ganapathie to confirm the completion of repairs on the streetlights.

RUDOLPH MHLOPHE
Special Lighting:
eThekweni Electricity

Umlazi street renaming

IN RESPONSE to Siphon Mbhele's letter, "Umlazi street renaming gone awry" (*eZasegagasini Metro*, 26 January).

The naming of the roads in Umlazi's U-Section has been completed but if there are areas that residents feel were neglected during the

street naming process, it would be appreciated if they could contact my office to deal with those areas.

My office can be reached on 031 311 7165.

STANLEY DLUDLA
Senior Town Planning
Technician

Send your letter to: The Editor, Letters, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4000; or e-mail: angamuthuv@durban.gov.za or naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za.

WATER AND SANITATION TENDERS

WS.5803 Rehabilitation of the Mpumalanga landfill site (R250 non-refundable tender charge - cash or bank guaranteed cheques only)

Closing date: 2 March 2007
A compulsory tenderers' meeting will be held at 10:00, on 2007-02-20, at the Mpumalanga landfill. Tenders submitted by tenderers who do not attend this meeting will not be considered. Only those tenderers who are registered with the CIDB, or are capable of being so prior to the evaluation of submissions, in a contractor grading designation equal to or higher than a contractor grading designation determined in accordance with the sum tendered for a 5CE/4CE

PE class of construction work, are eligible to tender.

Enquiries: Tel: 031 764 9360; Fax: 031 764 3143.

WS.5808 Supply, delivery and off-loading of plastic refuse bags for a 36 month period (R500 non-refundable tender charge - cash or bank guaranteed cheques only)

Closing date: 16 March 2007
A compulsory tender briefing will be held at 10:00, on 2007-02-23, in Room 103, 1st Floor, eThekweni Water & Sanitation Headquarters, 3 Prior Road, Durban. Offers made by tenderers who do not attend this meeting will not be considered. Enquiries: Tel: 031 311 8619; Fax: 031 311 8646 (T. MacCallum).

PROFILES: COUNCILLORS

The city's 200 councillors have begun their new term, assessing the needs of their communities and seeking ways to improve service delivery. In this, and future editions, we will profile them so that you can put faces to names and get to know them better



Name: Vela Cecil Gumede
Age: 50
Family: Married with three sons and

one daughter
Party: IFP
Ward: 54, 55, 57, 56 and 3 - Newtown C, Saiwela Crèche, Bambayi, Inanda, Maqadini and Nhlungwane
Committees: Housing and Solid Waste
Ward needs: Lighting, sanitation is needed in the formal settlements, low cost housing, electricity, good roads, telecommunication networks need to be allocated for Vodacom and MTN, footpaths, pavements and sports fields need to be delivered.
Has delivered: Housing, water for sewerages, electricity, sanitation and roads. Contributed in the building of schools.
Challenges for 2007: To tighten up on refuse removals and traffic calming measures. Improve on electricity and water supply cuts. HIV/Aids awareness, eradicating the bucket system and eliminating illiteracy through adult education centres.
Passionate about: My leadership with the IFP, soccer and music.
Contact: 031 519 0021 (office); 082 810 7355.



Name: Poobalan Govender
Age: 43
Family: Married with one son and one

daughter
Party: Scara
Ward: Shallcross, including Unit 9 and 11
Committees: Masakhane, Grants-in-Aid
Ward needs: A literacy campaign needs to be in place. Job creation and youth empowerment. Improved safety and security. Improved municipal services.
Has delivered: Sports development. Identified land to build houses for poor people. Provided the previously unemployed with skills to help them start up businesses. We run a feeding scheme and provide meals for disadvantaged people. HIV/Aids awareness programmes in schools.
Challenges for 2007: Moral regeneration so that the youth do not resort to criminal activities for a living. Reducing high rates of HIV/Aids, crime and unemployment in the ward.
Passionate about: My family and the poor people in my ward. Helping people to make a better living for themselves and their families.
Contact: 082 448 9214; 031 409 1770.



Name: Siphon Gladwell Khuzwayo
Age: 52
Family: Married with three sons and one

daughter
Party: ANC
Ward: 89 - Isipingo, including areas such as 17 Hostel at Umlazi T Section, Malukazi and Uganda (informal settlements)
Committees: Procurement and Infrastructure
Ward needs: Housing, the construction of proper roads, water, a sanitation system, electricity, schools, clinics and the creation of jobs.
Has delivered: Projects such as housing and the main water bulk pipe are still in the pipeline. Construction of a link road between Isipingo and Umlazi township.
Challenges for 2007: Having a clinic at the Uganda informal settlement. Construction of crèches for our children. Working towards reducing crime in the entire ward. Transforming Malukazi and Uganda into a more formal settlement.
Passionate about: Family, the community - and delivering its basic needs, sports and jazz music.
Contact: 031 311 2033 (office); 031 509 2446 (home); 082 457 0788; khuzwayosg@durban.gov.za.



Name: Nomthandazo Patricia Langa
Age: 46
Family: Married with three sons

and one daughter
Party: ANC
Ward: 67 - half of the Bluff, Wentworth and Marianridge.
Committee: Grants-in-Aid
Ward needs: Housing, proper roads and employment opportunities.
Has delivered: Community halls, speed humps, electricity, water and sanitation, parks, schools and libraries.
Challenges for 2007: Putting in place measures to combat the high crime rates in the ward - this would require a lot of co-operation from members of community. Creating job opportunities, particularly for the youth throughout the ward. We also want to build sports fields and youth recreational centres. This would give our youth something to occupy themselves with, and still reduce crime in the ward.
Passionate about: The youth and creating opportunities so that the youth can make their lives better. I am also a big lover of gospel music and sporting activities.
Contact: 031 311 2030 (office); 083 249 5489; LangaNP@durban.gov.za.



Name: Jean Lindsay
Age: 59
Family: Single with no children
Party: DA
Ward: Assistants

with environmental issues in the city.
Committees: Health, Safety and Social Services.
Ward needs: Food security. Starter homes need to be built more sustainably and waste management.
Has delivered:
 Uplifted communities through greening projects and the provision of food security.
 Promoted stewardship of our natural resources at a community level so that all citizens can be custodians through community based enviro-organisations.
Challenges for 2007: To increase composting at garden refuse sites, to ensure that rivers are cleaner, to increase the number of medicinal nurseries, to get citizens to implement energy conservation strategies at home and work, to tackle electronic waste starting with a Computer Take Back Campaign and to control invasive alien plants.
Passionate about: Conserving our natural heritage.
Contact: 082 550 4427; 031 705 5448 (fax); lindsayjd@mweb.co.za.



Name: Jayanathan Brian Soobramoney
Age: 54
Family: Married with

three daughters
Party: DA
Ward: 61 - Belvedere, Central Tongaat, Buffelsdale, Gwalas Farm, Flamingo Heights
Committees: Grants-in-Aid, Masakhane, Nonracism, Nonsexism, Non-Discrimination
Ward needs: Flats and low cost housing, maintenance and repairs, parking bays in the CBD, a library in Belvedere and increased policing in the ward.
Has delivered: Traffic calming measures, street lighting and floodlighting, upgraded council flats, senior citizens' homes and low cost housing, a soup kitchen and helped with the ongoing rates queries.
Challenges for 2007: Reducing crime throughout the ward. Fixing sewer blockages. A retirement village in Flamingo Heights. Ensuring job opportunities.
Passionate about: Senior citizens and working closely with council officials and the community. I strongly believe that "service to mankind is service to God".
Contact: (032) 944 1155 (office); (032) 945 0886 (home); (032) 944 1154 (fax).



Name: Nompumelelo Mhlongo
Age: 41
Family: Single with two sons and two

daughters
Party: IFP
Ward: 100 - Umbumbulu, Engonyameni; 93 - Nsimbini, Ezimbokodweni 80 - Section E Umlazi, A and V; 81 - Section C Umlazi
Committees: Masakhane Grants-in-Aid, Aids
Ward needs: Ward 80, 81 and 93 need housing. Other urgent needs include pavements, passages, poverty alleviation programmes, electricity, street lights, water and sanitation, sports grounds, and community halls. Also needed are road upgrades and a bridge at 1010 Enteke, D937, Ntinyane to Madundube.
Has delivered: Ward 100 - clinics at Madundube, Intinyane and Tafelkop. Water and sanitation at Emphusheni, Nwabi, Tafelkop and ward 93.
Challenges for 2007: Provision of mobile clinics, satellite police stations in some areas and community policing forums.
Passionate about: Poverty alleviation programmes at informal settlements.
Contact: 078 242 3004; 031 902 6257.



Name: Ravalall Hansraj
Age: 39
Family: Married with one son and one daughter

Party: MF
Ward: 48 - Greenbury, Stonebridge, Playfield, Southgate and Centenary Parkand; 49 - Longcroft, Ridlevale and Sunford.
Committees: Masakhane Grants-in-Aid and Admin Appeal
Ward needs: Housing for the destitute, infrastructure, road upgrades, sidewalks and speed humps.
Has delivered: Looked at ways to provide housing for the destitute, road upgrades and sidewalks. While some of these are still in the pipeline, the rest are being implemented.
Challenges for 2007: Safety and security. This needs to be looked into with stringent laws being implemented to curb the ongoing problem. Other challenges that need attention are job creation, HIV and Aids programmes and service delivery.
Passionate about: My career, serving my people and improving the lives of the destitute.
Contact: 031 505 6402 (office); 083 423 8102; 031 505 7020 (fax); hansrajr@absamail.co.za.