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NUUSBRIEF IPHEPHANDABA NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester
From the Mayor

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Liewe Inwoners

As 'n mens deur ons mooi dorpe ry, is daar 'n geelgoud herfskleed oor alles. Dis ongelooflik mooi en die blare begin reeds val. Ons eerste ligte reën het ons ook al geseën en ek onthou hoe ons laasjaar hierdie tyd elke dag gevrees het dat die krane sal droogloop. Theewaterskloofdam het net 10% water gehad en ons boorgate was nog nie almal klaar nie. Omdat ons almal hierdie angs beleef het, mag ons nooit water vanselfsprekend aanvaar nie en jubel ons oor elke reënbui. Wees asseblief steeds versigtig met water, ons damvlakke is steeds laag en ons weet nie wat om van hierdie winter te verwag nie.

Op 'n praktiese noot, is dit tyd om geute en waterslote skoon te hou van blare om verstoppings te keer. Maak ook seker dat u watertenke gereed is vir opvang. Van Munisipale kant af, monitor ons die blaarval en verwyder dit waar nodig, maar waar dit in ons parke en oop ruimtes so mooi lyk, gaan ons die blare los om soos die natuur bedoel het, dit kan terugkeer na die aarde toe as kompos.

Ek het onlangs grappenderwys in die Raad gesê dat ek eendag sal onthou word as die " Mopping up Mayor", want in die begin was daar soveel ou en onafgehandelde sake, sommige 10 jaar en ouer wat ons moes uitsorteer. Ek het almal wat vorendag gekom het, opgeskryf op 'n groot wit bord in my kantoor en een vir een getakel. Dit was frustrerend, harde werk en vasbyt, en soms demoraliserend om ou en negatiewe sake en prosesse reg te maak, want mens moes diep in die ou dokumente delf, maar nou is dit fantasties om te sien hoe ons nuwe projekte geloots word of afgehandel word. Maar o wee, daar is nog 'n paar oues wat besonder ingewikkeld is en vir my loer vanaf die wit bord ! So ons gaan maar voort met ons opveeproses!

Die opgradering van Mandela City, 'n informele nedersetting in Klapmuts, is een van ons nuwe projekte wat in die huidige termyn

Dear Residents,

If you drive through our towns, you will see a golden yellow cloak spread over everything. It is incredibly beautiful and the leaves have already begun to fall as the seasons change. We have been blessed with the first light rain showers and I remember how this time last year we were all fearing the worst and expecting our taps to run dry. The Theewaterskloof Dam was only 10% full and all our boreholes were not yet in place. Because everyone experienced this anxiety, we can never again take water for granted and we are grateful for every drop of rain that falls. Please use water sparingly, our dam levels are still low and we are not sure what this winter will bring.

On a practical note, it is time to clear the gutters and keep water ways free of leaves to prevent blockages. Please make sure that your water tanks are ready to collect rainwater. From the municipality's side we monitor the falling leaves and we clean up where necessary. In parks and open spaces however, we leave it as nature intended, to decompose and return to the earth as compost.

I recently joked in Council and said that I will one day be remembered as the Mopping-up Mayor. When the new Council was elected in 2016, there were so many old and outstanding matters, some older than 10 years, that needed attention. I wrote down every issue that popped up on a white board in my office and we are tackling them one by one. It has been frustrating and sometimes demoralising to deal with these old and often negative outstanding issues because you have to dig deep for old documents and cases. It is however wonderful to see how many new projects are being launched and completed. But oh dear, there are still some complicated old ones that are leering at me from my white board! We are however resolved to carry on and mop up all the old issues.

The upgrading of Mandela City, an informal

SPAAR WATER
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Recycling/Herwinning
Bl 3/ Pg 3

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begin is. Ek was persoonlik daar toe die eerste groep intrek, en dit was ŉ emosionele ervaring om hierdie droom te sien waar word. Met my heel eerste besoek aan die area in 2016 was ek geskok om die omstandighede te sien waarin hierdie inwoners leef. Ek het toe belowe dat ons hierdie omstandighede sal verbeter en ‘n area sal skep waar hul met waardigheid kan leef. Natuurlik was dit nie maklik nie en is die proses by tye ontwrig, maar die eerste fase van die projek is reeds in volle swang en ons gaan binnekort met die tweede fase begin. Die Provinsie het die diens van die erwe befonds en ons het vooraf vervaardigde wooneenhede geïnstalleer. Wat besonders is en ŉ eerste in die Wes-Kaap (en waarskynlik in Suid-Afrika), is dat elke eenheid voorsien is van sy eie toilet. Dit is ŉ reuse verbetering op die huidige nasionale standaard waar elke sewe huisgesinne een toilet moes deel. Vrouens moes dus dikwels in die aande stap om toegang tot ‘n badkamer te verkry en dit is gevaarlik. Niemand het ook verantwoordelikheid geneem vir die instandhouding hiervan nie.

Die eenhede is netjies uiteengesit en die paaie tussenin is geteer. Soos die mense in hul wooneenhede intrek moet hulle onmiddellik hul sinkhokkies afbreek en verwyder. Die area wat skoongemaak word, word dan opgegradeer met dienste en wooneenhede vir fase 2. Met die eerste fase word 183 gesinne geskuif word. In totaal sal die projek 505 eenhede bevat. Daar is nog baie werk wat gedoen moet word, maar dit is ‘n positiewe begin en ‘n reuse verbetering vir hierdie inwoners.

Hierdie proses sal uitgerol word na alle ander informele gebiede, want tensy ons alle inwoners menswaardig laat lewe, sal ons nooit vrede, geluk en voorspoed in ons mooi vallei kan hê nie.

Die Braak is een van ons besondere historiese en erfenisterreine, maar het stadigaan in onbruik verval en verwaarloos geraak. Die gras lyk sleg na die erge droogte en dit het toeriste onvriendelik geraak. Ons is bevoorreg om so ŉ ruimte in die hart van Stellenbosch te hê en moet dit, soos alle stede in die wêreld, bewaar en gebruik. Na verskeie konsultasies met ons Erfenisgroepe en versoeke vanuit die gemeenskap, het ek onlangs die Raad versoek om ‘n openbare deelname proses te begin, om die breë gemeenskap se insette en voorstelle te kry oor hoe die Braak optimaal aangewend kan word. Dit het die potensiaal om ‘n lewendige en opwindende spasie te wees vir inwoners, handelaars en toeriste. Daarom is dit belangrik dat deeglike oorweging en insette verkry moet word van ons inwoners, ontwerpers, kunstenaars en argitekte, sodat hierdie spasie optimaal aangewend kan word en ŉ positiewe transformerende effek op die res van die dorp kan hê.

Kyk asseblief uit vir die advertensies vir openbare deelname in ons plaaslike media en ook op ons sosiale media en lewer asseblief u insette en kommentaar!

Nog ‘n baie opwindende projek is ons nuwe behuisingstoepassing. Hierdie toepassing is ‘n eerste in die Provinsie en miskien ŉ eerstes in Suid-Afrika. Dit vorm ŉ belangrike deel van ons nuwe proses om die behuisingslyste op te gradeer en te verifieer. Inwoners sal deur middel van ons webblad, toegang tot die toepassing kan verkry. Die toepassing sal inwoners wat wil registreer op die behuisingslys, of nuwe data wil laai, maar nie tyd het vir n fisiese besoek aan die Munisipaliteit nie, in staat stel om dit nou elektronies te kan doen. Die hele aansoek word dan verwerk deur ons behuisingskantoor en die aansoeker word deurlopend op hoogte gehou van sy aansoek, en word ingelig wanneer dit afgehandel is. Dit sal inwoners wat reeds op die behuisingslys is in staat stel om hul inligting na te gaan, te kontroleer en op te dateer waar nodig. Dit sal die Munisipaliteit in staat stel om meer akkurate inligting te bekom en beter te beplan volgens spesifieke behoeftes. Dis ‘n innoverende stap vorentoe vir plaaslike regering en sal ons bemagtig om ons hulpbronne meer akkuraat en doeltreffend aan te wend. U kan gerus wees dat besondere sorg geneem is om te verseker dat die sisteem nie misbruik kan word nie.

settlement in Klapmuts, is one of our new projects that we launched at the start of our current term. I was there in person when the first people moved in and it was an emotional experience to see this dream being realised. On my very first visit to the area in 2016, I was shocked to see the circumstances in which these residents lived. I promised that we will improve living conditions and that we will create an area where people can live with dignity. It was not an easy process and at times the process was disrupted, but the first phase is now in full swing and the next phase will start soon. The Province funded the installation of services to each plot and the municipality installed the prefabricated living units. What is really remarkable is that each unit has access to its own toilet, a first in the Western Cape (and possibly in South Africa). It is an enormous improvement on the national standard where every seven households must share one toilet. Women often have to struggle in the evenings and walk long distances to a have access to a bathroom. This is potentially dangerous and nobody would take responsibility for the maintenance of the bathrooms.

These units are neatly spaced with tarred roads and stormwater structures. As the people move into their new units, they must immediately break down their old shacks. The vacated area is then cleared and upgraded with services and units for phase 2. With the first phase, 183 families were moved. In total, the project will consist of 505 units. There is still a lot of work to be done but it is a positive start and a massive improvement for our residents.

This process will by rolled out to all the other informal settlement areas. Providing our residents with dignified living spaces, is the only way we will experience peace, joy and prosperity in our beautiful valley.

The Braak is one of our historic heritage spaces, but it has fallen into disuse and neglect in recent years. The grass has been poorly maintained after the severe drought and the space has become much less attractive to tourists and residents alike. We are very privileged to have such a space in the heart of Stellenbosch and we must, as in all cities across the world, take care of it and preserve it. Following discussions with our heritage groups and requests from the community, I recently asked council to begin a public participation process so that we can gather the inputs and the suggestions from the broader community about how die Braak can be optimally utilised. It has the potential to be a very exciting and lively space for residents, traders and tourists. That is why it is very important that all due consideration is given to this. Suggestions and ideas must be gathered from residents, designers, artists and architects, so that we can optimally use this space for a positive and transforming effect on the rest of the town!

Please be on the lookout for notices about public participation in our local media and on our social media platforms. Please give us your inputs and comments.

Another very exciting project is our new housing application (housing app). This app is a first in the Province and possibly one of the very first of its kind in South Africa. It forms an important part of our new process to improve and verify our housing lists. Residents will have access to the app via our webpage. The app will make it possible for residents to register on the housing list or to upload new data and update their already captured information without having to visit the municipality in person. The entire application is then processed by our housing office and the applicant is kept informed every step of the way. When the application has been processed, the resident will then be informed of their status and position with regards to the list. It will give residents who are already registered on the waiting list access to their information and will enable them to easily monitor and update it if necessary. It will enable the municipality to gather more accurate information and allow us to plan better according to specific needs. This is an innovative step for local government and will empower us to apply our resources with more accuracy and

Nog ‘n eerste vir Stellenbosch Munisipaliteit is die Stellenbosch Omgewingsbestuur Raamwerk. Hierdie dokument sal binnekort voor die Raad dien en dan beskikbaar wees vir openbare deelname en insette. Ons is een van die eerste munisipaliteite wat so ‘n raamwerk sal implementeer en dit sal saam met ons Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk en enige bou en ontwikkelingsaansoeke gelees word. Die doel hiervan is om die wetlike asook die morele verantwoordelikhede van Stellenbosch Munisipaliteit teenoor ons natuurlike omgewing in ag te neem in die uitvoer van ons doel, visie, strategiese en ruimtelike beplanning. Dit sal verseker dat ons besluite in lyn is met ons natuurlike omgewing sodat ons dit kan bewaar en bevorder vir toekomstige generasies. Ons is geleë in ‘n beeldskone vallei en dit is ons plig, as plaaslike regering, om te verseker dat die natuurskoon en natuurlike hulpbronne bewaar en uitgebou word. Dit kan slegs gedoen word indien ons die omgewing in ag neem met alle beplanning wat in die dorp gedoen word. Dit sal verseker dat sensitiewe areas bewaar word, bedreigde spesies gered word en dit wat ons bou meer omgewingsvriendelik en groen sal wees, om die toekoms van ons dorp en land meer volhoubaar voort te sit. Kyk uit vir die openbare deelname proses en neem deel hieraan. Dit is ‘n uiters belangrike stap om seker te maak ons bou en volhou ‘n groen ekonomie en omgewing.

Ek wil graag ’n baie positiewe ervaring met u deel. Ek het onlangs saam met die Provinsiale Minister van Onderwys, Minister Debbie Schaefer, verskeie skole dwarsoor ons munisipaliteit besoek. Die doel was om met skoolhoofde te praat oor uitdagings wat ons skole ervaar. Onderwys is ‘n provinsiale mandaat en dikwels kan munisipaliteite nie inmeng of help met uitdagings nie, maar ons kan wel help as die skool uitdagings met dienste ervaar en soms is die uitdagings geïntegreerd met uitdagings van die omliggende gemeenskap. Wat ’n voorreg om so baie uitstekende en toegewyde skoolhoofde en onderwysers te ontmoet! Al staar baie van ons skole uiters moeilike sosio-ekonomiese omstandighede in die gesig, laat hul dit nie struikelblokke word nie, maar skep kreatiewe en fantastiese geleenthede vir ons kinders. Ek salueer elkeen van hulle! As gemeenskap, moet ons asseblief saamwerk en help waar ons kan, veral waar vandale en kriminele skole teiken en verniel. Daar is werklik nie meer geld beskikbaar om die verwoesting wat vandalisme aanrig te herstel nie.

Ek het onlangs die konsepbegroting aan die Raad voorgelê en hierin verwys na verskeie projekte wat ons oor die volgende paar jaar wil aanpak om veral herwinning ‘n groot hupstoot te gee. Ons stortingsterrein gaan binne die volgende paar maande kapasiteit bereik. Vandat die huidige Raadstermyn in 2016 begin het, werk ons reeds hieraan, maar dit moes reeds 10 jaar gelede aangespreek gewees het, want dis ’n komplekse en tydsame proses. Stortingsterreine is ekologies onvriendelik en nie meer aanvaarbaar nie en alternatiewe moet dringend gesoek word, want lisensies word moeilik toegestaan.
Ons het gelukkig binne die bestaande lisensiegebied ’n gedeelte gevind wat onder die Eskomlyne is en as ons die lyne skuif en die ou deel rehabiliteer, kan ons waardevolle jare wen. ’n Ooreenkoms hieroor is reeds met Eskom beding en hulle is ook reeds vergoed uit die vorige begroting. Die volgende stap is nou ‘n omgewingsimpakproses.

As ‘n samelewing moet ons egter ons ingesteldheid teenoor herwinning, vermindering van afval en hergebruik verander. Ons gaan oor die volgende paar maande fokus op herwinning en elke huishouding gaan aangemoedig word om te herwin. Ons wil ook hard werk om alle voedselafval te herwin deur middel van kompostering en ander biologiese herwinningstegnieke. Deur te herwin sal ons die lewensverwagting van ons bestaande en opgegradeerde stortingsterrein verleng. Dit sal ons as ‘n munisipaliteit en dorp help om meer aandag aan ons omgewing te gee. Inwoners word aangemoedig om ook self komposteringsemmers en ensieme aan te koop en so afvalkos te herwin. Dis bekostigbaar, effektief en ’n bate vir u tuin.

efficiency. You can rest assured that we have taken prodigious care to ensure that the system cannot be abused.

Another first for Stellenbosch Municipality is the Stellenbosch Environmental Management Framework. This document will soon serve before council and will then go out for public participation and inputs. We are one of the first municipality’s that will implement a framework of this kind and it will be read with our Spatial Development Framework and any building or development plans. The purpose of this is to take into account the legal and moral obligations we have as a municipality towards our environment in the execution of our goals, vision and strategic as well as spatial planning. It will ensure that our decisions are in line with our natural environment so that we can conserve and promote it for future generations. We are located in a beautiful valley and it is our duty, as local government, to ensure that nature and our natural resources are preserved and expanded. This can only happen when we take the environment into consideration with all planning that happens in our towns. This will ensure the conservation of sensitive areas and threatened species will be saved. What we build will be more environmentally friendly so that our towns become more sustainable. Be on the lookout for the public participation process and please take part in it. It is an extremely important step to ensure that we build and maintain a green economy and environment.

I want to share a very positive experience with you. I recently accompanied the Provincial Minister for Education, Minister Debbie Schaefer, on a tour to various schools across the municipality. The purpose was to meet with school principles to discuss challenges that schools experience. Education is a provincial mandate and often municipalities are not able to assist or interfere in the challenges that schools experience. We can however help if schools experience issues with basic services and sometimes the challenges they experience are integrated with the challenges with that of the surrounding community. What a privilege to meet so many excellent and dedicated principals and teachers! Even though many of our schools face extremely challenging socio-economic challenges, they don’t allow them to become stumbling blocks. They create creative and fantastic opportunities for our learners. I salute each and every one of you! As a community we must work together to assist wherever possible, especially where criminals and vandals target and damage schools. Honestly, there are no more funds available for restoring the damage and destruction caused by vandalism.

I recently presented the Draft Budget to council and in this document referred to various projects we will be undertaking over the next few years. I’m excited to announce our efforts to promote recycling! Our landfill site will reach capacity within the next few months. We have been working on this since the start of the current term of Council in 2016. Unfortunately, this needed should have been addressed 10 years ago, because it is a lengthy and complicated process. Landfill sites are ecologically unfriendly and licenses are not easily granted. Alternatives must urgently be found and implemented.

We have found space within our existing licensed landfill space, located below Eskom lines. If we move the lines and rehabilitate an older part of the site, we will gain many valuable years and extend operations at the current site for years to come. An agreement with ESKOM has already been reached to move the lines and they have already been compensated from the previous budget. The next step is the required environmental impact assessment process.

As a society, we have to change our attitude towards recycling, the reducing of waste and reusing items to prevent them from turning into waste. Over the next few months we will be focusing on recycling and every household will be encouraged to recycle. We also want to work hard to recycle food waste through composting and other biological recycling techniques. By recycling we will extend the life cycle of our existing and upgraded landfill site. It

Hierdie krisis is amper net so ernstig soos ons waterkrisis en tot ons die nuwe kapasiteit in plek het, moet ons die afval na ‘n alternatiewe terrein vervoer. Dit het ’n geweldige tarief implikasie soos u sal sien in die konsep begroting.

Ek doen ‘n ernstige beroep op ons inwoners om ons net so mooi te help soos met die waterkrisis . Ek sal elke maand hieroor praat en inligting beskikbaar maak en wenke deel.
Die heilige maand van Ramadan begin weer op die aand van 5 Mei 2019. Ek wil graag die geleentheid gebruik om namens die Munisipaliteit aan al ons Moslem inwoners en personeel ‘n geseënde Ramadan toe te wens. Mag dit ‘n tyd van verdieping en gebed vir u wees.

U het gelees van ons GEE VERANTWOORDELIK projek om vir haweloses koepons te gee in plaas van geld. Gee asseblief ruim, maar verantwoordelik deur die koepons by u te hou en haweloses so te help. Geld ly tot allerhande misbruike en bemagtig kommersiële bedelaars en help nie ons mense in ware nood nie. Ek vra mooi dat u saamwerk om die projek ’n sukses te maak.

Ek staan altyd in verwondering oor hoe vinnig die tyd aanstap. Die Nasionale/Provinsiale verkiesing is om die draai en u moet asseblief gaan stem op 8 Mei. U toekoms is in u hande en diegene wat nie stem nie, moet maar aanvaar watter regering u kry. Moedig veral die jongmense aan om te stem, want daar is ’n algemene apatie onder die jonger geslag.

Die laatherfs en vroegwinter is hier en ek hoop u geniet die koeler en natter weer. Dit is vir my ‘n spesiale tyd van die jaar van wintergroente, lenteblombolle en nuwe bome plant. En natuurlik is dit die tyd voor ‘n (kaggel)vuurtjie te sit en ons wynekonomie te ondersteun deur van Stellenbosch se pryswenner wyne te geniet!

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

will help us as a municipality and as a town to be more environmentally conscious and make greener life choices. Residents are encouraged to get composting buckets and enzymes and to start recycling food waste into compost. It is affordable and a wonderful asset for any garden.

This crisis is almost as serious as the water crisis and until we have additional capacity in place, our waste has to be transported to an alternative site. This will have a significant impact on this tariff as you will see in the draft budget.

I want to urge residents to help us with this, just as you did during the water crisis. Over the next few months I will be sharing more information on this matter and will continue to share tips with you.
The holy month of Ramadaan starts on the evening of 5 May 2019. I want to use the opportunity, on behalf of the Municipality, to wish our Muslim residents and staff a blessed Ramadan. May it be a time of reflection and blessings.

You will have read about our GIVE RESPONSIBLY campaign where you can buy coupons for homeless people, instead of handing out money. Please contribute to this project by making use of the coupons and keep it with you to assist homeless people in need. Money often results in various abuses and assists commercial beggars. This does not help the people who are experiencing real need. I sincerely ask that you help us to make this project a success.
I am always mesmerised by how quickly time moves on. The National and Provincial Elections are around the corner and please make sure you vote on 8 May. Your future is in your hands and those who do not vote must accept the government they get. Please encourage our young people to vote! There seems to be a great apathy amongst the younger generation and it is important for everyone to make their mark.

The early winter months are here and I hope you enjoy the cooler and wetter weather. For me, it is a special time of the year for winter vegetables, spring bulbs and planting new trees. And of course it is the best time to sit in front of a fire and to support our local wine industry with some of Stellenbosch’s award winning wines!

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie