STELLENBOSCH
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MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

NUUSBRIEF
IPHEPHANDABA
NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester
From the Mayor

Liewe Inwoners,

Kan mens glo binnekort vier ek twee jaar as die Burgemeester van Stellenbosch! Die tyd het gevlieg en dit voel soos gister toe ek met bewerige bene ingehuldig is as Burgemeester, tog voel dit ook terselfdertyd of ek maar altyd hier was.

Ek het onlangs 'n lysie gemaak van al die goed wat ons as huidige Raad al vermag het en kan opreg sê dat ons op die regte pad is. Dis onmoontlik om alles hier te noem, maar ek noem graag 'n paar wat uitstaan. Ek beoog om in Februarie, wanneer die helfte van my termyn verby is, 'n openbare terugvoervergadering te hou en sal u dan volledig inlig.

Vul van Betrekkings

Baie institusionele veranderinge en regstellings is gedoen en dit maak dit moontlik om beter te funksioneer en dienste te lewer. Die belangrikste hiervan is die vul senior poste wat vir jare tydelike aanstellings gehad het of vakant was.

Die hele organogram is hersien en tree in werking op 1 Julie. Dis veral baie belangrik dat ons nou 'n uiters knap Munisipale Bestuurder en Senior Direkteure het. Die meeste beleide en verordeninge is hersien en dis uiters belangrik want sommige was baie oud en dit vorm die regsraamwerk waarbinne ons funksioneer. Waar daar gapings was, is nuwes geskep en ons doen steeds so.

Dear Residents,

Can you believe that I will soon be celebrating two years as the mayor of Stellenbosch! Time has flown by and it feels like just yesterday that I was inaugurated as the mayor, with shaking knees, yet at the same time I feel as if I have always been here.

I recently made a list of all the things we have achieved as council and I can happily say that we are definitely heading in the right direction. It is impossible to name everything here, but I will list some highlights. I am planning to host a feedback meeting in February, when half of my current term has concluded, and will then give you a complete rundown.

Filling of Vacancies

A lot of institutional changes and improvements have been made and this makes it possible to perform better and to deliver services. The most important of this is the filling of senior vacancies that were subjected to temporary appointments or remained vacant for years.

The entire organogram has been reviewed and becomes active on 1 July. It is especially significant that we now have an excellent Municipal Manager and Senior Directors. The majority of our policies and bylaws have been reviewed. This is very important because some were very out-dated and it forms the legal framework in which we function. Where there were gaps, new ones were created and we are still doing so.

Adv. Gesie van Deventer
Uitvoerende Burgemeester / Executive Mayor
021 808 8002
mayor@stellenbosch.gov.za

SPAAR WATER
SAVE WATER

Behuising
Housing
bl/pg 2

STELLENBOSCH WCO 24
021-886 8976
SSI
SAFETY INITIATIVE

Infrastruktuuropgraderings

Groot infrastruktuuropgraderings is gedoen en nuwe projekte is begin. Ek sal nooit vergeet hoeveel ontstoke, soms woedende inwoners (met goeie reg) my kom sien het oor ons defektiewe rioolstelsels wat riool in die Eersterivier, Plankenburg en Bergrivier lek. Die rioolwerke is opgegradeer en was ons grootste kapitale projek ooit in Stellenbosch teen R460 miljoen. Verskeie behuisingsprojekte vir ons kwesbare gemeenskappe is begin en talle reeds klaar beplan. Die waterkrisis is suksesvol aangespreek, sportvelde en munisipale eiendom en huureiendom is opgradeer, baie is reeds belê in sekuriteitsvoorkoming. Die belangrikste vir my is egter dat gesprekskanale met belangegroepe oor 'n wye spektrum geopen is en verhoudinge gebou dwarsoor die breër gemeenskap.

Begroting

Daar is egter nog geweldig baie wat ek graag wil doen en baie wat noodsaaklik is om te doen. Ek wil u dus aanmoedig om die begroting vir die volgende finansiële jaar wat pas goedgekeur is, te lees. Dit word goed opgesom in my Begrotingstoespraak wat op ons webblad is.

Die kapitaalbegroting vir die volgende finansiële jaar word gewy aan onderhoud, opgradering en verbetering van dienste soos watervoorsiening, riolering, elektrisiteitsnetwerke, paaie en sypaadjies, vullisverwydering en al die ander basiese dienste waarvoor ons verantwoordelik is.

Behuising

Behuising bly 'n uiters sensitiewe kwessie waaroor mense sterk gevoelens het. Ek is daartoe verbind dat ons inwoners in menswaardige omstandighede moet bly en daarom gee ons ook ernstige aandag hieraan. Met die toelae wat ons ontvang van die nasionale en provinsiale regering, en ons eie fondse, het ons begroot vir die opgradering van informele woongebiede en verskeie behuisingsprojekte regoor ons munisipale gebied. Daar word ook gefokus op gemengde behuisingsprojekte, wat standaard regeringsbehuising sowel as goedkoper huise vir laer inkomste groepe insluit, dwarsoor die munisipaliteit.

Dit sal onder andere jonger mense wat met hul toetrede tot die arbeidsmark nie 'n huis kan bekostig nie, maar meer verdien as behoeftige inwoners wat op behuisingslyste van die munisipaliteit verskyn ook help. Dit sal ook 'n impak hê op ons verkeersvloei as minder werkende mense van buite inry.

Behuising is egter 'n enorme en langsame proses, met inwoners wat soms nie verstaan dat die jaarlikse befondsing vanaf nasionale en provinsiale regering elke jaar minder word, terwyl die waglys langer word. Om te kyk na innoverende en alternatiewe benaderings hiervoor het ons in Junie 'n Behuisingsberaad gehou om al die rolspelers saam te bring. Hierdie eerste sodanige beraad vir Stellenbosch, het rolspelers van alle oorde ingesluit om die uitdagings rondom behuising te bespreek en nuwe idees voor te lê. Uit die beraad het dit vir ons duidelik geword dat die privaatsektor 'n groot rol as vennoot kan speel in hierdie uitdaging. Baie dankie vir al die insette.

Upgrading Infrastructure

Major infrastructure upgrading has been done and new projects were started. I will never forget how many unhappy, sometimes livid residents (with good reason), came to see me about our defective sewer system that leaked sewerage into the Eerste River, Plankenburg- and Berg River. The sewerage works have been upgraded and it has been one of the biggest capital projects ever in Stellenbosch. Various housing projects for our vulnerable residents have started and several have already been planned. The water crisis has been successfully addressed, sport facilities, municipal properties and rental properties have been upgraded and a lot has been invested in preventative security. It is however very important for me that communication channels across the entire spectrum remains open and we continue to build relationships across the broader community.

Budget

There is still a lot that I want to achieve and a lot that is absolutely necessary to do. I therefore want to encourage you to read the budget for the next financial year which was recently approved. It is summarised in my Budget speech that is available on our municipal webpage.

The capital budget for the next financial year is dedicated to maintenance, upgrading and improvement of services like the provision of water, sewerage system, electricity network, roads and sidewalks, waste removal system and all the other basic services for which we are responsible.

Housing

Housing remains an extremely sensitive issue which people feel strongly about. I am committed to making sure our residents live in dignified circumstances and that is why we give this a lot of attention. With the grants we receive from national and provincial government, and our own funds, we have budgeted for the upgrading of informal settlements as well as various housing projects across the municipal area. We are also focussing on housing projects that deliver standard government housing as well as more affordable houses for lower income groups, across the municipality.

It will, amongst other things, help younger people that enter the labour market for the first time but cannot afford a house and who earn too much to qualify for the official municipal housing list, to buy a property. It will also impact our traffic flow because less people will have to drive in from outside of our towns.

Housing, however, is a huge and slow process, with residents who sometimes do not understand that the annual funding from national and provincial government is reduced each year, while the waiting list becomes longer. To explore innovative and alternative solutions to this dilemma, we conducted a Housing Summit in June to bring all the stakeholders together. This is the first summit of its sort for Stellenbosch, included stakeholders from all areas to discuss housing challenges and present new ideas. From this summit it became clear that the private sector has a significant role to play as a partner in this challenge. Thank you for your contributions.

Pniël Elektrisiteit

Dis lekker om te rapporteer dat die oordrag van elektrisiteitverskaffing in die Pniël-omgewing vanaf Drakenstein Munisipaliteit na Stellenbosch waarvoor inwoners nou al vanaf 2013 wag, uiteindelik 'n realiteit is. Die finale oordrag gaan binnekort gefinaliseer word en sal beter tariewe en meer stabiele kragvoorsiening vir ons inwoners meebring.

Erfenisgeboue

Dit is altyd 'n uitdaging om ons erfenis geboue te behou en effektief te gebruik. Dit was dit vir my baie lekker om onlangs die heropening van die Van Der Stel Bottelstoor in Ryneveldtstraat by te woon. Die winkel het 'n besonderse geskiedenis en is een van die oudste drankwinkels in die land. In 1891 het dit begin as die Van Backstrom Wyn Handelaars. In ongeveer 1901 is die winkel se argitekuur aangepas na die Edwardiaanse vorm wat ons vandag ken. Met verwisseling in eienaarskap het dit bekend geword as die Van Der Stel Bottelstoor en in 1986 het die toe eienaars dit geregistreer as 'n provinsiale erfenisgebou. 'n Kettingwinkelgroep het in 2017 die gebou gekoop, restoureer en die winkel weer heropen. Dis wonderlik om te sien hoe mooi die karakter van die gebou gepreserveer is, selfs die oorspronklike vloere is bewaar. As jong student in die tagtigerjare, toe vroue nie eintlik in drankwinkels gesien was nie, het ek eens daar ingesluip en die "gewaagde" stap geneem om in die einste winkel 'n bottel vonkelwyn te koop vir 'n verjaardag van 'n koshuismaat. Hoe het tye nie verander nie!

Besoeke met Inwoners

Die lekker funksies maak die swaar werklas altyd makliker. So was 'n middagete van Wyksraadslid Rikus Badenhorts saam met 'n groot groep senior burgers van Wyk 21,wat 'n vorige Burgemeester, Lauretta Maree, ingesluit het, 'n absolute voorreg. Die wysheid en opoffering van ons senior mense en hul werk in ons gemeenskap, bly 'n inspirasie.

Ons is baie trots op 2 van ons inwoners van Franschhoek wat op internasionale vlak presteer en ek was bevoorreg om hul te ontmoet tydens een van my kantoordae in Franschhoek. Mnr. Clemment Prins, wat ook tennis afrig in Stellenbosch en Franschhoek , is gekies om eersdaags 'n lynregter te wees by die Wimbeldon Tennistoernooi in Londen! Mnr. Dumisani Moloso, 'n sokkerafrigter wat jong kinders in Groendal bemagtig deur sokker te speel en hul so weghou van die strate, doen 'n ongelooflike werk. Hy neem 19 kinders van Groendal op 'n toer na Swede in Julie. Ons wens hulle voorspoed toe en bedank ook graag hul borge en medewerkers.

Jeugdag

Ons het ook op 16 Junie Nasionale Jeugdag herdenk as belangrike mylpaal in ons geskiedenis. Daar was verskeie funksies oraloor die Munisipaliteit. Dit is wonderlik om die potensiaal van ons land te kan sien in ons kinders. Dit het ook beklemtoon hoe belangrik ons nalatenskap vir ons kinders is en dat ons hard moet werk om 'n beter wêreld vir hulle agter te laat.

Pniël Electricity

It is good to report on the carrying over of the electricity network in Pniël, from Drakenstein Municipality, to Stellenbosch Municipality, for which residents have been waiting for since 2013. The final transfer will be completed soon. This will mean better tariffs and a more stable electricity supply to our residents in the region.

Heritage Buildings

It is always a challenge to maintain our heritage buildings and to effectively put them to good use. That is why I took great pleasure in the recent reopening of the Van Der Stel Liquor Store in Rynevledt Street. The shop has a very interesting history and is one of the oldest liquor stories in the country. It started in 1891 as the Van Backstrom Wine Merchants. In around 1901 the shop's architecture was adjusted to the Edwardian form that we know today. With the changing in ownership it became known as the Van Der Stel Liquor Store and in 1986 its owners registered it as a provincial heritage building. A chain store group bought the building in 2017, restored it and reopened the shop. It is wonderful to see how beautifully the character of the store has been preserved; even the original floors were preserved. As a young student in the eighties, when women weren't really seen in liquor shops, I crept into the store once and made the "risky" move of buying a bottle of sparkling wine for the birthday of one of my residence friends. How times have changed!

Visits with Residents

The fun work functions always make the difficult tasks a little easier. That is why a lunch with ward councillor, Rikus Badehorst, along with a group of senior citizens from Ward 21, including a previous Mayor, Lauretta Maree, was an absolute privilege. The wisdom and sacrifice from our older residents and their work in the community remains an inspiration.

We are very proud of 2 of our residents from Franschhoek who achieved at an international level. I was privileged to meet them during one of my office days in Franschhoek. Mr Clemment Prins, who also coaches tennis in Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, has been chosen to be a line umpire at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London! Mr Dumisani Moloso, a soccer coach that empowers young children in Groendal through soccer and in that way keeping them off the streets, is doing amazing work. He is taking 19 children to Groendal on a tour to Sweden in July. We wish them all the best and thank their sponsors and co-workers.

Youth Day

On 16 July we commemorated National Youth Day as an important milestone in our history. There were various functions all over the municipality. It is wonderful to see the potential of our country in our children. It has also emphasised how important our heritage is to our children and that we must work hard to leave behind a better world for them.

Spaar Water

Ek juig oor al die reën wat ons tot dusver ontvang het, en ons bid vir nog baie goeie reën. Wat 'n fees om weer ons grasperke en tuine mooi en groen te sien! Ons damvlakke het ook verbeter, maar is steeds krities en vlak 6B waterbeperkings bly steeds in plek. Hou asseblief aan met water spaar! Die lang somer lê weer voor. Ek wil inwoners weer aanmoedig om reënwater op te vang waar moontlik, want elke druppel is steeds kosbaar.

Behuisingsuitdagings

Ongelukkig het ons onlangs onluste in Kayamandi ervaar toe groepe wat ongeduldig is oor behuising, grond probeer beset en bates afgebreek het. Dis uiters jammer want ons tydlike hervestigingseenhede waarheen mense verskuif sou word terwyl ons vir hul huise bou, is in een nag vernietig. Die geldwaarde hiervan was ongeveer R17 miljoen en baie tyd word verloor om weer te begin. Ek het reeds met 5 groepe inwoners vergader en gaan voort met onderhandelinge. Graag sê ek dankie vir die ondersteuning van al die sekuriteitsgroepe, SAPS en ons eie wetstoepassing wat vir dae en nagte aaneen gehelp het om hierdie krisis te hanteer.

Baie Dankie

Laastens wil ek dankie se vir elke inwoner wat my oor die laaste 2 jaar gehelp, bemoedig, uitgedaag of inspireer het. Elke inset, van watter aard ook al, het hierdie eerste fase 'n opwindende en uitdagende reis gemaak. Dit bly my voorreg om in hierdie besondere munisipaliteit te mag werk, en die inwoners is my fokus. Soms is daar nog baie uitdagings, maar ons werk met ywer om alles aan te spreek. Ek bly geïnspireerd deur die woorde van Shakespeare wat gesê het: "What is a city but its people".

Dit is so lekker om te sien hoe die reën die natuur goed doen, selfs met die winterkoue staan die groen uit en wys my tuin tekens van lewe in dank vir al die lekker water.

Beste Wense en Groete
Burgemeester Gesie

Save Water

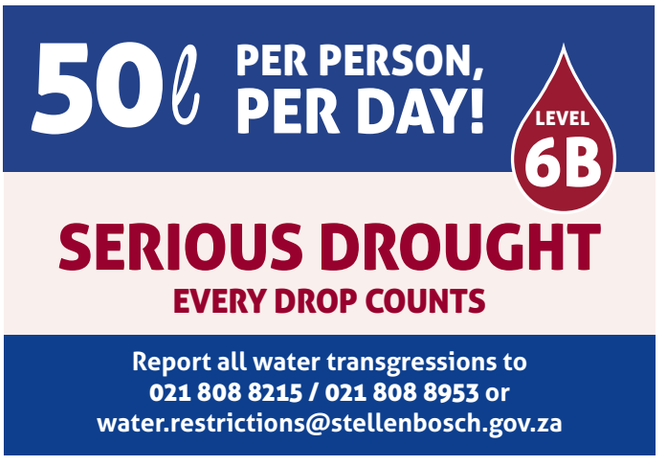
I am welcoming all the rain we have received thus far and we are praying for lots more good rains. What a pleasure to see our gardens and lawns nice and green again! Our dam levels have improved but it is still critical and level 6B water restrictions will remain in place. Please continue to save water! The long summer is still ahead. I want to continue encouraging residents to collect rain water where possible, because every drop is still precious.

Housing Challenges

Unfortunately we experienced unrest in Kayamandi recently when groups who are impatient about housing tried to occupy land and destroyed assets. It is regrettable because our temporary relocation units, where people would have been moved to while we build new permanent houses, were destroyed in one night. The monetary value is approximately R17 million and a lot of time has been lost to restart the project. I have already engaged with 5 groups of residents and we continue to negotiate and talk. I want to thank the security groups, SAPS and our own law enforcement officers for their support day and night during the handling of the crisis.

Thank you

Finally I want to thank every resident who has helped me over the past 2 years, who encouraged me and inspired me. Every input, whatever the nature of it, made this first phase of the journey exciting and challenging. It remains a privilege for me to work in this special municipality and the residents remain my priority. There are still challenges, but we are working with gusto to address everything. I remain inspired by the words of Shakespeare who asked: "What is a city but its people?".

It is wonderful to see how the rain is doing nature good, even with the winter cold the green is showing and my garden is showing signs of life because of all the water.

Best Regards,
Mayor Gesie