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NUUSBRIEF
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NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester
From the Mayor

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Liewe Inwoners

Soos Vrouemaand ten einde geloop het, het die hele land regop gesit en met skok en afgryse gekyk hoe die nuus berig oor die een na die ander vrou se dood. Die nuus was vol van vroue wat gesterf het as gevolg van gruwelike geweldsmisdaad. Die vrouens se persoonlike stories het baie van mekaar verskil: Sommige was studente, ander het professionele beroepe beoefen, hulle was oud en jonk, ryk en arm. Hulle was egter almal vrouens. Ek moet sê, as 'n vrou in ons gemeenskap, lê ek nagte wakker oor hierdie aaklige tragedie wat regoor die land afspeel. Wat moet ons doen om ons inwoners en veral ons vrouens te beskerm en hulle veilig te laat voel? Die realiteit is dat enige oplossing vir die geweld teen vroue nie net 'n regeringsaangeleentheid of 'n maatskaplike kwessie is nie. Dit is iets waaraan ons almal moet aandag gee.

As 'n gemeenskap moet ons erken dat daar 'n probleem is. As vroue, moet ons stappe neem om onsself te bemagtig sodat ons nie meer gesien word as maklike teikens nie. As 'n gemeenskap, en as 'n samelewing, moet ons die kultuur waarin ons elke dag funksioneer aanspreek en verander. Ons moet ons seuns van kleins af leer dat mans en vrouens gelyk is aan mekaar en dat geweld nie 'n aanvaarbaar oplossing vir enige probleem is nie. Daar moet 'n vernuwing in ons denke intree oor hoe ons dink oor die rolle van mans en vroue. Waar dwelms en alkohol oorheers, moet elke slagoffer dapper genoeg wees om te erken hy of sy het 'n probleem en daar moet fasiliteite wees om hierdie mense te ondersteun en te rehabiliteer. As 'n gemeenskap moet ons mekaar begin

Dear Residents,

As Women's Month came to a close, the entire country was shaken with shock and horror as the media reported the death of one woman after the other. The news was packed with stories about women who died because of violent crime. The personal stories of the victims differed from one another: Some victims were students, others were in professional positions, they were young and old, rich and poor. The one thing that these victims had in common was that they were all women. I must say as a woman in our community I lie awake at night because of this terrible tragedy that is happening across the country. What must we do to protect our residents and especially women, and make them feel safe? The reality is that any solution for the violence cannot just be a government issue or a social issue. It must be something we all pay attention to.

As a community, we must admit that there is a problem. As women, we must take steps to empower ourselves so that we are no longer viewed as easy targets. As a community and as a society we must address and change the culture we function in every day. From a young age we must teach our sons that men and women are equal and that violence is never a solution for any problem. We must change the way we think about the roles of women and men in society. Victims of drug and alcohol abuse must be courageous and admit that he or she is facing a problem and there must be facilities to support and rehabilitate these people. As a community we must support one another and we cannot be quiet and look the other way when we see women

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ondersteun en nie stil wees of ander pad kyk wanneer ons sien hoe vroue geviktimiseer word nie. Genoeg is genoeg!

Vroeër die jaar het ek aan u genoem dat ons besig is om te werk aan 'n innoverende elektroniese behuisingstoepassing. Ek wil met trots vir vertel dat ons die toepassing geloods het en dat dit nou beskikbaar is vir alle inwoners wat op die munisipale behuisingslys wil registreer. Die nuwe toepassing is geloods as deel van ons omvattende projek om ons bestaande behuisingswaglys op te dateer. Die huidige behuisingslys dateer sover terug as 1987. Met die samesmelting van die verskeie munisipaliteite in 1995 het verskeie behuisingslyste saamgesmelt om een lys te vorm.

In 2018 het die Raad besluit om die Munisipaliteit se behuisingslys te verander tot die Behuisingsaanvraagdatabasis. As deel van die oordra van die behuisingslys na die nuwe databasis, is dit krities belangrik dat ons seker maak al die data wat ons het, relevant en op datum is. Ongelukkig stel mense nie altyd die munisipaliteit in kennis indien hulle omstandighede verander nie en daarom is baie van die inligting om die behuisingslys verouderd. Ons het dus nou begin om al die inligting wat op ons behuisingswaglys is te verifieer en oor te dra na die nuwe databasis. As deel van die projek, het ons die behuisingstoepassing geloods om dit makliker en meer toeganklik te maak vir inwoners wat slimfone het, om te registreer op die databasis. Die VOIS toepassing is baie klein en kan maklik afgelaai word op 'n slimfoon. Dit gebruik baie min data en laat inwoners toe om 'n behuisingsaansoek te voltooi sonder dat hulle na die naaste behuisingskantoor toe hoef te gaan. Dikwels is die reiskoste soos taxigelde nogal duur en sal dit goedkoper wees om 'n bietjie data te gebruik. Tans is die toepassing net beskikbaar vir Android fone, maar dit sal binnekort ook vir Apple gebruikers beskikbaar wees. Ons is trots daarop dat hierdie toepassing een van die eerstes in die land is wat inwoners toelaat om elektronies aansoek te doen.

Ons wil dit egter ook maklik maak vir diegene wat nie slimfone het nie en het begin met 'n veldtog om al die areas in ons hele streek te besoek en inwoners aan te moedig om hul inligting op die behuisingswaglys na te gaan. Alle inwoners wat aansoek gedoen het vir 'n plek op die behuisingswaglys moet asseblief hul inligting nagaan en seker maak al die besonderhede is korrek. Die hele projek is baie belangrik omdat dit ons in staat sal stel om meer akkurate data te hou vir beter toekomsbeplanning vir behuisingsprojekte en hierdie lys sal in die toekoms die behuisingstoekennings bepaal.

Die veldtog duur tot Februarie 2020 en 'n program vir wanneer en waar ons behuisingsafdeling opnames sal doen, is op die webblad beskikbaar en is ook by biblioteke en munisipale kantore beskikbaar. Indien u enige navrae het kan u gerus met Ilze Couvaras kontak maak by 021 808 8604 of Ilze.Couvaras@stellenbosch.gov.za.

Soos ons nader aan die somer beweeg, breek die brandseisoen weer aan. Ons word elke jaar geteister deur brande wat baie skade aanrig en wat 'n groot inpak het op ons omgewing en ons inwoners. Om die impak van brande op veral ons inwoners te beperk, werk ons saam met die Provinsiale Rampbestuur en die Universiteit om rookalarms in strategiese areas in mense se woonplekke te installeer. Tot op datum het ons alreeds meer as 1024 rookalarms geïnstalleer in onder andere Klapmuts, Vlottenburg, La Motte/Groendal, Kayamandi, Jamestown, being victimized. Enough is enough!

Earlier this year I mentioned to you that we are busy working on an innovative electronic cell phone application or app for short. I am proud to tell you that the app has been launched and that it is now available for residents who want to register on the municipal housing list. The new app has been launched as part of an inclusive project to update our existing housing waiting list. The current list dates back to 1987. With the amalgamation of the various municipalities in 1995 the various lists were combined to form one list.

In 2018, Council decided to carry over the Municipality's housing waiting list to the Housing Demand Database. As part of the transfer of the housing list to the new database, it is critically important to ensure that all the data we have is up to date and relevant. Unfortunately people do not always notify the municipality when their circumstances change and that is why a lot of the information on the housing waiting list is outdated. We have therefore started with a process to verify all the information on the housing waiting list and to carry it over to the demand database. As part of this project we launched the new housing app to make it easier for residents who have access to smart phones to register on the database. The VOIS app is small and can be downloaded easily. It uses very little data and allows residents to apply for housing without having to travel to the nearest housing office. Travel costs are often expensive and for many residents it might be more affordable to use a little bit of data instead. The app is currently only available on Android phones, but an Apple version will soon be made available. We are very proud of this app and it is one of the first in the country to allow electronic applications for housing.

We want to make it easy for residents who do not have access to smart phones to apply for and verify information on the housing demand database and we are busy with a campaign, visiting all the areas in our region to encourage residents to verify their information on the housing demand database. All residents who have applied to the housing waiting list must please verify their information and ensure all their details are correct. This is an extremely important project because the accurate data will allow us to plan better for future housing projects and this list will determine housing allocations in future.

The campaign will continue until February 2020 and a programme indicating when and where our housing department will be, is available on our website as well as in libraries and municipal offices. If you have any question,s please contact Ilze Couvaras on 021 808 8604 or Ilze.Couvaras@stellenbosch.gov.za.

As we approach Summer, we are also approaching the fire season. Every year we are harassed by fires that cause a lot of damage and impacts on our environment and residents. We are working with Provincial Disaster Management and the University to limit the impact of fires on especially our residents by installing smoke alarms for residents in strategic areas. To date, we have installed more than 1025 smoke alarms in Klapmuts, Vlottenburg, La Motte/Groendal, Kayamandi, Jamestown, Langrug and Cloetesville. Our emergency services also provide information about how to maintain the alarms as well as what to do in case of an

Langrug en Cloetesville. Met die installering van die rookalarms, doen ons nooddienste ook voorligting oor hoe om na die alarms om te sien en wat om te doen in ŉ noodgeval.

Rookalarms is uiters belangrik in dig bewoonde areas waar brande vinnig kan versprei. ŉ Brand kan binne 30 sekondes versprei en katastrofiese gevolge hê. Die rookalarms dien as ŉ effektiewe waarskuwing wat inwoners toelaat om vinnig ŉ struktuur te ontruim en nooddienste te ontbied. Ons begroot dus jaarliks vir die uitbreiding van die program en wykskomitees word ook aangemoedig om wyksfondse vir die projek te begroot.

Probleemgeboue is ŉ groot probleem en uitdaging oraloor alle gebiede. Sommige vervalle en verwaarloosde geboue of erwe behoort aan ander regeringsdepartemente of staatsinstellings, maar soms ook aan privaat eienaars. Daar is nou ŉ fokus om al hierdie geboue reg te ruk. Die ou Victoriastraat Kliniek is so ŉ gebou. Die gebou, wat eers as ŉ kliniek gedien het, was die laaste paar jaar verlate en het dikwels ongewensde elemente gelok. Die gebou gaan egter nou ŉ gedaanteverwisseling ondergaan. Ranyaka Community Transformation is ŉ nie-regeringsorganisasie wat daarop fokus om geleenthede te skep vir veral minderbevoorregte inwoners. Ranyaka werk op voetsoolvlak om gemeenskappe te aktiveer deur middel van opleiding en entrepreneurskap. Hulle het suksesvol aansoek gedoen en planne voorgelê oor wat om met die ou Victoriastraat Kliniek gedoen kan word en ons sien uit om saam met hulle te werk. Ranyaka se planne fokus daarop om ŉ spasie te skep waar veral BBEEE-entrepreneurs kantoorspasie en moontlik verkoopspasie sal kan kry om hulle te help met hul besighede. Dit het die potensiaal om ons gemeenskappe se ekonomiese potensiaal te ontgin en te bou aan ons plaaslike ekonomie. In Oktober gaan Ranyaka geleenthede vir die publiek hou om hul planne met die perseel te bespreek en inwoners ook kans te gee om insette te lewer. Hou die plaaslike pers dop vir inligting.

Daar is nou ŉ konsepverordening goedgekeur om met probleemgeboue te handel. Sodra die publiek insette gegee het, sal dit finaal voor die Raad dien en dit sal ons ons staat stel om eienaars aan te spreek om hul geboue reg te maak. As hul dit nie doen nie, sal ons dit dan doen vir hulle rekening.

Ons het ook die konsepbeleid vir informele handel goedgekeur en na openbare deelname sal die beleid in finale vorm ons in staat stel om die onbeheerste informele handel te reguleer. Ek wil dit beklemtoon dat ons nie die handel wil benadeel nie. Inteendeel, daar is planne om oraloor strukture op te rig om handel te vergemaklik, maar dit moet ordelik en gereguleerd geskied. Daar is nie plek in ons dorpe vir mense wat hierdie spasies gebruik vir dwelmhandel en die openbare ruimtes bemors nie. Areas sal afgebaken word, geadverteer word en aansoekers sal gekeur word. Suksesvolle kandidate sal ŉ kontrak ontvang en sal binne die reëls daarvan moet bly. Sommige areas waar strukture is, kan ook aan organisasies toegeken word om te bestuur.

Ons het ook ‘n konsepbeleid goedgekeur wat kyk na die benaming en herbenaming van strate, plekke ens. Dit sal nou uitgaan vir openbare deelname en ek wil inwoners aanmoedig om asseblief hul insette op die konsepbeleid te lewer. Ek is al deur verskeie inwoners hieroor genader en ek wil u verseker dat dit met die grootste sensitiwiteit gehanteer sal word.

emergency.

Smoke alarms are vital in densely populated regions where fires can spread very quickly. A fire can spread within 30 seconds and have disastrous consequences. The smoke alarms serve as an effective warning system allowing residents to quickly evacuate a structure and to summons emergency services. We budget for the continued roll-out of this programme annually and ward committees are also encouraged to use ward funds for this project.

Problem buildings across our region pose many challenges. Some of the dilapidated and neglected buildings belong to other government departments, but sometimes also to private owners. We are now focused on addressing this challenge. The old Victoria Street Clinic is one such a building. The building, which served as a clinic some time ago, has been abandoned and often attracts unwanted elements. This building will however undergo a transformation. Ranyaka Community Transformation is a non-governmental organisation that focuses on the creation of opportunities for underprivileged residents in particular. Ranyaka works on ground level to activate communities through training and entrepreneurship. They successfully applied and presented plans about what to do with the old Victoria Street Clinic and we are excited about working with them on this project. Ranyaka’s plans are focussed on creating a space where especially BBEEE-entrepreneurs have office and retail space to assist them with their businesses. It has the potential to create great economic potential in our local economy. In October, Ranyaka will have opportunities for the public to see the plans for the building and to discuss it with residents. Residents will also have the opportunity to give inputs. Keep a lookout for more information in the local media.

There is a draft By-Law for problem properties that has been approved. As soon as the public has given their input, it will serve before Council for final approval and this will enable us to address owners to fix their buildings. If they do not comply, we will act and they will be billed for it.

We have also approved a draft policy for informal trading and when the public participation has been completed, the final policy will enable us to better manage unregulated informal trading. I want to emphasise that we in no way want to disadvantage informal trading. We have plans to create structures everywhere to make trading easy. Informal trading must however be regulated. There is no place in our towns for people who want to use these spaces for drug trading or vandalism. Areas will be clearly demarcated and advertised and applicants will be evaluated and approved. Successful candidates will receive a contract and must operate within the rules. In some areas, formal structures may also be allocated to organisations to manage.

We have also approved a draft policy for place naming, street naming and renaming. This will also go out for public participation and I want to urge residents to make use of the opportunity to give their inputs on this draft policy. I have been approached by various members of our community to address this issue and I want to assure you that it will be done with the greatest sensitivity.

Residents of Franschhoek must be very relieved following the

Franschhoek se mense is seker baie verlig dat die pas weer oopgestel is vir verkeer. Ek het ook met die nuwe Minister van vervoer en Openbare werke in die Wes-Kaap, Bonginkosi Madikizela, ontmoet en die veiligheidskrisis op die R45 aangespreek. Hopelik sal ons binnekort die uitslag kry van die studie wat hul gedoen het. Ek het ernstig aangedring op robotte of ŉ sirkel op daardie deel van die pad. Ons het ook gepraat oor moontlike spoedverminderings maatreëls. U sou wel nou al verskeie kere ons wetstoepassers daar gesien het met padblokkades. Dis lastig vir mense wat moet stop, maar dis krities om ongelukke te vermy en lewens daar te spaar.

Ek wil inwoners daaraan herinner dat ons steeds op vlak 2 waterbeperkings is. Die damvlakke het goed gestyg tydens die winter, maar daar lê weer ŉ warm somer voor. Ons het reeds ŉ paar baie warm dae gehad en ek doen ŉ beroep op elke inwoner om aan te hou water spaar. Indien u wil tuin maak, probeer sover moontlik u gryswater gebruik om u tuine te onderhou en fokus op meer geharde plante.

Ek trek elke Maandag my stapskoene aan en besoek onaangekondig ŉ gebied of van ons geboue om ŉ beter prentjie te kry van wat gedoen moet word. Miskien loop ek u raak! Dis tans so mooi met die nuwe vroegsomer seisoen en ek geniet dit om die mooi te sien, maar doen dit eintlik om self waar te neem waaroor ons inwoners soms kla.

En ons is voorwaar al weer in die laaste kwartaal vir 2019! Die jaar het inderwaarheid vinnig verby gegaan. Voor ons egter die somervakansie kan aanpak, is daar egter nog baie werk wat gedoen moet word. Saam met die lekker weer is daar ook verskeie buitelugfeeste wat weer plaasvind. Ek hoop om u by een van hierdie feestelike geleenthede raak te loop.

Die matriekafskeide is al verby en ons jongmense maak reg vir die jaarlikse groot eksamens. Ons wens hul sterkte toe!

Tot volgende keer.

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

reopening of the pass. I also met with the new Minister of Public Works and Transport in the Western Cape, Bonginkosi Madikizela to discuss the safety crisis on the R45. Hopefully, we will soon get the results back of the study they have conducted. I made a serious appeal for traffic lights or circles on that section of the road. You would have noted an increased law enforcement presence in the area accompanied by road blocks. It may be inconvenient for people to stop, but it is critically important to avoid accidents and save lives.

I want to remind residents that we are still on level 2 water restrictions. During the winter months our dam levels increased significantly, but a long summer still lies ahead. We have already had some very warm days and I call on every resident to please save water. If you want to garden, please try to use grey water to maintain your garden and focus on planting drought resistant plants.

Every Monday I put on my walking shoes and make unannounced visits to various areas or to some of our properties to get a better picture of what needs to be done. Maybe I will meet you during one of my walks! This is such a lovely time of the year in our region, with the early summer weather and I love seeing all the beauty, but I also enjoy these walkabouts as they allow me to meet and interact with people in our towns and listen to the challenges they experience.

And so it is the final term of 2019! The year has indeed gone by very quickly. Before we can think of the summer holidays there is still a lot of work to be done. There are also several open air festivals taking place and maybe I will see you there. With the Matric farewells completed, our young people are now settling down for the annual final exams. We wish them all the best!

Until next time.

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie