STELLENBOSCH
STELLENBOSCH • PNIEL • FRANSCHHOEK
MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

NUUSBRIEF IPHEPHANDABA NEWSLETTER

UITGAWE 46 - 2019 • EDITION 46- 2019

Van die Burgemeester From the

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Liewe Inwoners

Genugtig, maar die tyd vlieg! Dit voel of gister Kersfees was, maar ons is al amper aan die einde van die eerste kwartaal! Tog het daar al so baie gebeur met talle hoogtepunte en dis lekker om te sien, hoe na baie beplanning en harde werk, ons projekte nou begin momentum kry.

'n Projek wat een van my aanvangsbeloftes was en my aan die hart lê is die oordrag van die elektrisiteitsnetwerk in Pniel, vanaf Drakenstein na ons munisipaliteit. Die eerste gesprekke oor die projek het reeds in 2008 begin, maar toe ons termyn begin, het die inwoners my laat belowe dat ek sal toesien dat die oordrag finaliseer word.

Die inwoners van Pniel se elektrisiteit was tot onlangs voorsien deur Drakenstein Munisipaliteit en het dus elke maand twee rekeninge ontvang, een van Drakenstein vir hul elektrisiteit, en een van Stellenbosch vir al hul ander munisipale uitgawes. Dit het dinge veral moeilik gemaak vir die inwoners omdat hulle dan twee betalings by twee munisipaliteite moes doen. Dit het ook tot gevolg gehad dat die inwoners van Pniel onderworpe was aan ander elektrisiteitstariewe, wat hoër was as die res van die groter Stellenbosch se tariewe.

Dear Residents,

It is amazing how time has flown by! It seems that Christmas was only yesterday, but we are almost at the end of the first term of 2019! Despite this, so much has happened. There have been various highlights and it is good to see how, after a lot of planning and hard work, our projects are gaining momentum.

A project that was one of my very first promises as Mayor, and which is close to my heart, is the transfer of the electricity network in Pniel, from Drakenstein to our municipality. The first discussion about this project began in 2008, but when our term started, residents made me promise that I will ensure the transfer is finalised.

Until recently, the residents of Pniel received their electricity from Drakenstein Municipality and therefore received two bills each month; one from Drakenstein for their electricity and one from Stellenbosch for their other municipal expenses. This made things particularly difficult for residents because they had to do two payments to two municipalities. Residents of Pniel were also subjected to higher electricity tariffs than the rest of the Greater Stellenbosch area.

Following intense negotiations and

SPAAR WATER
SAVE WATER

Human Rights Day/
Menseregtedag
Bl 3/ Pg 3

STELLENBOSCH WCO 24
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SAFETY INITIATIVE
SSI

Na intense onderhandeling en ’n oorkoopfooi van R 16,2 miljoen is hierdie netwerk wat Pniel se elektrisiteit voorsien, nou oorgedra na ons, en kan ons uiteindelik hierdie diens ook aan ons inwoners voorsien. Ons het die geleentheid behoorlik gevier met ’n seremoniële en formele oorskakeling op die 15de Februarie! Die oorskakeling beteken dat ons op die langtermyn baie beter sal kan beplan vir die behoeftes van die inwoners van Pniel, omdat ons nou in beheer is van die kragvoorsiening.

Soos ek reeds genoem het in ons nuusbrief verlede maand, is al ons studente inwoners weer terug. Verlede jaar het die Universiteit sy Eeufees gevier en vanjaar is die nuwe eeu aangepak met ‘n nuwe tradisie. Ek het dan ook die wonderlike geleentheid gehad om aan hierdie Droom Loods inisiatief deel te neem. Na ’n seremonie saam met die omtrent 5000 eerstejaars en hul ouers op Coetsenburg, kon ek saam met die akademiese prosessie en die eerstejaarstudente deur die strate van die dorp en kampus stap op die maat van orkesmusiek. Die eerstejaarstudente het almal ’n kaartjie gekry waarop hulle hul drome kon skryf vir die jaar en het dit dan op die bome in Victoriastraat vasgemaak. Ek kon ook my droom vir ons dorpe neerskryf en dit is geen geheim, want waaroor ek droom is dat ons een van die beste Munisipaliteite in die land sal word.

Die meer as 30 000 studente vorm ’n integrale deel van Stellenbosch en dis belangrik om ook hul samewerking te kry. Dit was baie spesiaal om as gasheer op te tree vir die Prim-komitee van die universiteit se eerste vergadering van die jaar wat in ons Raadsaal plaasgevind het. Die Primariusse en Primarias is die leiers van die onderskeie koshuise en privaatwyke en vorm ‘n integrale deel van kommunikasie met studente. Alhoewel ons gereeld met die top bestuur van die Universiteit vergader en sake bespreek, kry ons selde die geleentheid om direk met die studenteleiers te ontmoet. Ons lewer ook aan alle studente basiese dienste as inwoners van ons dorpe. Dit was besonders om hierdie groep pragtige, jong, dinamiese leiers te ontmoet en aan hulle te verduidelik hoe plaaslike regering werk. Ons het ooreengekom om nou kwartaalliks te ontmoet en so voort te bou op die positiewe verhouding tussen die munisipaliteit en die universiteit.

Ek het ook onlangs in ons pragtige dorp, Franschhoek, waar ek maandeliks kantoorure handhaaf, ook ‘n draai gemaak by soveel moontlik van die plaaslike besighede. Ek het die geleentheid gebruik om met die eienaars en

buying fees of R16,2 million , the network providing Pniel with electricity has now been transferred to us and we can finally supply this service to the residents as well. We celebrated the occasion in style with a ceremonial switchover ceremony on the 15th of February! Because of this switchover, we will be able improve our planning for the region and better provide for the needs of the Pniel residents as we are now in charge of the electrical supply.

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, our student residents have all returned and the academic year is well underway. Last year, the University celebrated its centenary and this year the next century was launched with a new tradition. I also had the amazing opportunity to take part in this Dream Launch initiative. Following a ceremony with approximately 5000 first year students and their parents at the Coentzenburg Stadium, I walked with the academic procession and the first year students through the streets of town and campus to the beat of a marching band. The first years all received a card on which they could write their dreams for the year and attached it to trees in Victoria Street. I also wrote down my dreams for our towns and it is no secret that my dream for us is to become one of the best municipalities in the country.

The more than 30 000 students form an integral part of Stellenbosch and it is therefore important to get their cooperation. It was a very special occasion for me to host the Prim committee of the University for their first meeting of the year in our Council Chamber. The Prims are the leaders of the various student residences and the private wards on campus and play a key role in our communication with students. Although we meet with the top management of the University on a regular basis, we seldom have the opportunity to directly interact with the student leaders. We deliver basic services to thousands of students, as residents of our town, and it is therefore important that we interact directly with the students as well. It was a pleasure to meet this group of young and dynamic leaders and to discuss with them the workings of local government. We have agreed to meet once a term and in that way continue to build on the positive relationship between the municipality and the university.

During one of my recent visits to the beautiful Franschhoek, where I also conduct monthly office hours, I visited several businesses in the area. I used the opportunity to discuss issues and challenges with the

bestuurders van verskeie en uiteenlopende besighede te gesels oor uitdagings en ook die munisipaliteit se kontakinligting met hulle gedeel. Ek sal met opvolgbesoeke nog meer besighede besoek.

Ons vind dikwels dat inwoners onseker is oor waar om probleme aan te meld en gefrustreerd raak omdat hulle nie onmiddellik reg gehelp kan word nie. Daarom het ons ‘n nuwe blaadjie saamgestel met die kritieke kontaknommers daarop. Ons sluit dit ook by hierdie nuusbrief in. Gebruik asseblief hierdie nommers om diensleweringskwessies aan te meld sodat u gouer gehelp kan word. En indien u sukkel, laat weet my asseblief. Ons werk hard daaraan om alle kwessies wat aangemeld word so vinnig as moontlik aan te spreek.

Maart is Menseregtemaand in Suid-Afrika en op 21 Maart vier ons Menseregtedag. In Suid-Afrika herdenk ons die gebeure van 21 Maart 1960, toe 69 mense dood en ‘n verdere 180 gewond is tydens ‘n protesoptog teen die destydse Paswette. Die Paswette het ten doel gehad om die vrye beweging van swart, bruin en Indiër mense te beperk. Nou, na 60 jaar het ons as Suid-Afrikaners, ‘n grondwet wat ons basiese menseregte beskerm. Ons moet dit altyd koester en nooit as vanselfsprekend aanvaar nie. Ons moet seker maak dat ons hierdie regte beskerm en eerbiedig om te verseker dat dit nooit van ons af weggeneem word nie. Ek nooi u uit om iets spesiaal te doen hierdie Menseregtedag saam met u gesin of vriende om hierdie regte te vier. Laat weet gerus hoe u dit gevier het.

Soos altyd, wil ek ons inwoners daaraan herinner om steeds spaarsamig met water te werk. Ons het ‘n paar uiterse warm weke en hittegolwe agter die rug en die winter lê nog ver. Ons bly op vlak 2 waterbeperkings, maar ek wil elkeen van u vra om asseblief nie te laat slap lê met u besparingspogings nie. Aan die einde van Maart gedenk ons ook Nasionale Waterweek en sal ons aanhou om bewusmaking te kweek oor die belangrikheid van water, waterbewaring en die volhoubare bestuur daarvan.

Maart is ook ’n besondere besige maand in al ons dorpe, met baie toeriste wat hier kom kuier. Dan klim waterverbruik. Help asseblief om alle besoekers te herinner daaraan dat ons ’n waterskaarste ervaar. Ons mag steeds nie ons tuine op ons openbare ruimtes en langs die paaie besproei nie- ai dis baie sleg om nie ons dorpe te mag mooimaak nie.

Dit was weer my voorreg om deel te neem aan vanjaar se

managers and owners of the various businesses and also used my visit as an opportunity to share the municipality’s contact information with them. It was wonderful interacting with such diverse and passionate business owners and I will definitely make a point of visiting more businesses when I am in Franschhoek again.

We often find that residents are not sure of exactly where to report problems and then get frustrated when they are not properly or immediately assisted. That is why we compiled a leaflet containing the most important contact numbers. We are also including this leaflet in the newsletter. Please use these numbers to report service delivery issues so that we can assist you as quickly as possible. We are working very hard to address all issues that are reported to us.

March is Human Rights Month in South Africa. On 21 March we celebrate Human Rights Day. In South Africa we commemorate the events of 21 March 1960 when 69 people died and a further 180 were wounded during a peaceful protest against the Pass Law. The function of the Pass Law was to restrict the free movement of black, coloured and Indian South Africans. Now, 59 years later we have a constitution which protects human rights. We must defend these rights and never take it for granted. We must ensure that our rights are protected, adhered to never taken away. I invite you to do something special to celebrate this day with family and friends. Let me know how you celebrated.

As is customary by now, I want to remind our residents to please continue to save water. We have experienced several extremely warm weeks and a few intense heat waves over the past months. Winter is still a long way off. We remain on level 2 water restrictions but I want to plead with you to not relax your water saving efforts. At the end of March we will commemorate National Water Week and we will continue to raise awareness about the importance of water, water conservation and its sustainable management.

March is also a particularly busy month in all our towns, with many tourists visiting our region. Our water consumption usually increases during this time. Please continue to remind our visitors that we are still experiencing a water shortage. We are still not allowed to water our public gardens or open spaces and this makes beautifying our towns very difficult.

Oesfees. Hierdie was die derde jaar wat ek saam met ons landbougemeenskap die oes kon seën en herdenk. Dit is met groot opgewondenheid dat ek sien hoe die geleentheid groei en verbeter het die afgelope paar jaar. Dit is werklik ‘n fees wat almal geniet met sierwaens wat deur die dorp ry, trompoppies, ’n huisvlytskou in die stadsaal en die tradisionele oopmaak van ’n bottel vonkelwyn met ’n swaard. Landbou is ’n kernbedryf in ons Munisipaliteit met enorme werkskepping en verwante bedrywe en dit is so ‘n lekker manier om die seën van die oes met almal te deel. Graag bedank ek die organiseerders hiervoor.

Ek hoop dat dit ‘n oes van uitstaande gehalte sal wees en ek sien uit daarna om weereens die top wyne van ons streek op die rakke te sien. Dis ’n groot bron van trots dat Stellenbosch en Franschhoek se wyne van die bestes in die land en in die wêreld is!

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

It was a privilege to participate in this year’s Harvest Festival. This is the third year I celebrated the harvest and its blessing with the agricultural community. It is a great celebration that everyone enjoys. The town is filled with festively decorated floats, drum majorettes, a home industry show and the traditional opening of a bottle of sparkling wine with a sabre. Agriculture is a key industry in our municipality that provides important jobs within the industry and other adjacent industries. The festival is a great way of sharing the blessing of the harvest with everyone in our community. Thank you to the organisers for this incredible event!

I trust that the quality of the harvest will be excellent and I am looking forward to seeing the top wines of our region on the shelves soon. It’s a great source of pride that our towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek continue to produce some of the best wines in the country and the world!

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie