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MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

NUUSBRIEF
IPHEPHANDABA
NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester
From the Mayor

Liewe Inwoners

Beurtkrag

Daar heers groot opgewondenheid regoor die land oor ons aankondiging dat ons wil begin met die proses om van beurtkrag ontslae te raak. Sedert ons aan die einde van Januarie die aankondiging gemaak het, is ek oorval met oproepe van regoor die land, van plaaslike en internasionale kenners wat wil help. Ek was totaal oorweldig en opgewonde oor die ongelooflike positiewe reaksie wat ons hierop gekry het. Daarom wil ek weer net met u, as inwoner, die feite deel.

Beurtkrag en kragonderbrekings lê gereeld die hele land lam, as gevolg van die voortslepende energiekrisis. Daarom het dit vir ons noodsaaklik geword om alternatiewe energie bronne te begin oorweeg. Die Raad het dus ingestem dat ons kan begin om moontlike alternatiewe oplossings te ondersoek. As ons dit regkry sal ons moontlik een van die eerste munisipaliteite in die land word, om beurtkrag uit te skakel.

Ons is baie trots om eerste uit die wegspringblokke te wees met die proses. Daar is nog 'n lang pad wat voorlê voor ons heeltemal sal kan wegdoen met beurtkrag. Baie mense was onder die indruk dat dit 'n oornag proses sal wees, en al wens ek dit was so eenvoudig, is daar egter sekere stappe wat eers moet gebeur. Dit beteken ook nie ons gaan wegbreek van ESKOM nie. Dit is onmoontlik. Ons hoofdoel is slegs om beurtkrag te voorkom, sodat ons ekonomie, inwoners en besighede nie meer hoef saam te leef met die geweldige negatiewe impak van hierdie kragonderbrekings nie.

Dear Residents,

Load Shedding

There has been a lot of excitement from around the country since we have made our announcement what we want to start with the process to end load shedding in our municipal area. I have been overwhelmed with calls from across the country - from local and international experts who want to assist us, since we made the announcement at the end of January. I am so happy and excited by the incredible positive reactions we've been receiving. That is also why I want to share some facts with you as resident.

Load shedding and power interruptions are continuously crippling the entire country because of the energy crises. That is why it has become necessary for us to consider alternative energy sources. Council has therefore agreed that we can start investigating alternative solutions to the continuing problem. If we manage to do this, we could potentially be one of the first municipality's in the country to completely eliminate load shedding.

We are very proud to be one of the first establishments out of the starting blocks. There is still a long road ahead before we can completely eliminate load shedding. Many people were under the impression that it will be an easy, overnight process and even though I wish it were that simple, there are several steps that we must follow. This also does not mean we will be breaking away from ESKOM. It is not possible to do so. Our main aim is simply to shield our economy, residents and businesses from the negative impact of load shedding. This way, we want to help protect jobs, attract investment and keep our lights on permanently.

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

SPAAR WATER
SAVE WATER

Let's Fix It

Please report all water, electrical, roads, stormwater, refuse removal and area cleaning issues to the Municipality directly:

Stellenbosch / Klapmuts / Kayamandi / Jamestown / Raithby
021 808 8215 / 8953 / 8343

Dwarsrivier Region / Franschhoek
021 808 8632

AFTER HOURS FOR ALL REGIONS
021 808 8890 / 8891

Alternatively, send an email to engineering.services@stellenbosch.gov.za or ***WhatsApp*** us on **0769510768**

If we don't know about it, we cannot fix it!

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Ons is gelukkig dat ons kan voordeel trek uit jare se goeie regering asook maklike toegang het tot van die mees vooraanstaande kenners in die energie sektor.

Ons eie kundiges gaan saamwerk met kenners van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, die Raad vir Wetenskaplike en Industriële Navorsing en die Wes-Kaapse regering.

Dit is dus 'n gesamentlike navorsingsprojek wat ons aanpak wat sal fokus op:

- die potensiaal van nuwe energie produkte, insluitend sonpanele op dakke, metaangasmyne (by stortingsterreine);
- om die publiek toe te laat om eie elektrisiteit te genereer en dit terug te verkoop aan die munisipaliteit;
- die direkte aankoop van elektrisiteit vanaf onafhanklike kragverskaffers;
- die moontlike verkoop van elektrisiteit aan gewillige kopers van buite ons munisipale area.

As 'n leier in Suid-Afrika vir geleenthede en innovasie, sien ons baie uit om saam met ons navorsingsvennote hierdie reis aan te pak wat ons hopelik sal neem na energie onafhanklikheid. Ons is verbind tot 'n deeglike wetenskaplike en deursigtige proses en sal meer besonderhede kan verskaf wanneer die bevindings van die ondersoek weer voor die Raad dien.

Stellenbosch Wynroete vier 50 jaar

Suid-Afrika se wynbedryf vier vanjaar sy 362ste verjaarsdag. Dit is die enigste wynbedryf in die wêreld wat sy presiese bestaansdag kan terug dateer (2 Februarie 1659) en daarom 'n amptelike verjaarsdag het. Saam met die groot mylpaal vier ons eie wynroete in Stellenbosch ook hul 50ste bestaansjaar. Die Stellenbosse Wynroetes verteenwoordig meer as 200 wyn en druiweboere en die duisende werksgeleenthede wat direk en/of indirek hieraan verbonde is.

Ek onthou baie goed dat groot feesvieringe bespreek is tydens verlede jaar se oesfees, maai ai tog, toe verander die wêreld in 'n oogwink. Die eerste naweek in Februarie het vanjaar stil en ongemerk verby gegaan, sonder ons gebruiklike feesviering om dankie te sê vir die oes. Die kleurvolle parade wat jaarliks deur die dorp stap met verteenwoordigers van die omliggende wynplase, en die wonderlike werkers wat die oes moet inbring, se afwesigheid is hierdie jaar merkbaar en laat 'n groot leemte op ons feeskalender. Dit was nog altyd vir my 'n hoogtepunt en een van die lekkerste feeste om by te woon. Dis ook tekenend en 'n swaar herinnering aan die druk waaronder ons wynbou-industrie gebuk gaan. Ek wil u aanmoedig om asseblief aan te hou om ons plaaslike besighede, wynplase en restaurante te ondersteun. Hulle het u nou meer nodig as ooit te vore. Ons wens alle produsente en werkers 'n geseënde oes toe. Dis die kroon op 'n hele jaar se werk en 'n unieke deel van ons dorpe se erfenis.

Ek wil egter ook vra dat elke persoon verantwoordelik sal optree wanneer u 'n drankie geniet. Dronkbestuur sal nooit geduld word nie en indien verbruikers nie ernstig verantwoordelikheid begin neem nie, is ek bevrees dat die Nasionale Regering stappe gaan neem wat duisende werksgeleenthede in ons streek in gedrang sal plaas.

We are fortunate that we can benefit from years of good governance as well as easy access to some of the country's leading experts in the energy sector. Our own specialists will be working with experts from the Stellenbosch University, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Western Cape Government.

It is therefore a combined scientific research project that we will be tackling to focus on:

- The potential of new energy products including sun panels on rooftops and methane mines (on landfill sites).
- Allowing the public to generate their own electricity and selling that back to the municipality;
- The direct purchasing of electricity from independent power producers;
- The selling of electricity to willing buyers from outside our municipal area.

As a leader for innovation and opportunities in South Africa, we are very much looking forward to embarking on this journey with our research partners. We are hopeful that this will lead to more energy independence and sustainability. We are committed to a thorough scientific and transparent process. More details will be made available when the findings of our research serves before council.

Stellenbosch Wine Route celebrates 50 years

This year, the South African Wine industry celebrates its 362nd birthday. It is the only wine industry in the world that can exactly date its birthday (2 February 1659) and that is why it has an official celebration day. Along with this momentous achievement, we also celebrate the 50th year of our Stellenbosch Wine Routes. The Stellenbosch Wine Routes represent more than 200 wine and grape farmers and the thousands of job opportunities that are directly or indirectly linked to this industry.

I recall that during last year's harvest festival we were discussing major celebrations to commemorate the occasion. But then the world changed in the blink of an eye. This year, the first weekend of February passed quietly and without any fanfare. The colourful event that takes place annually and parades through our town, with representatives of the surrounding wine farms and wonderful workers who must bring in the harvest, was notably absent leaving a sad hole in our festive calendar. It has always been a highlight for me and one of the greatest festivals to attend. It is also serves as a difficult reminder of the extreme pressures our wine industry is being subjected to. I want to encourage you to please keep supporting our local businesses, wine farms and restaurants. They need you now more than ever. To all the produces and workers, may you have a blessed harvest. It is the crowning glory on an entire year's hard work and a unique part of our region's culture and heritage.

I do however want to ask each person to act responsibly whenever you enjoy a drink. Drunk driving will never be tolerated and if consumers do not take serious steps to act responsibly, I am afraid National Government could take

COVID-19

Dis een jaar later, en COVID is steeds met ons. Die laaste groot jolyt in die dorp was die Woordfees. Oral by die fees het mense al gepraat oor COVID en die inpak daarvan op Europa, maar ons wildste drome sou ons nie kon voorberei op die afgelope jaar nie. Daar is reeds verskeie entstowwe op die internasionale vlak beskikbaar en Suid-Afrika het ook reeds besendings ontvang, maar dit gaan nog ‘n tydjie neem voor die entstowwe vrylik beskikbaar is. Daarom vra ek weer dat elke inwoner sal hou by voorkomende maatreëls. Dra asseblief ‘n masker wanneer u tussen ander mense beweeg. Hou die masker aan, al is daar wyd oop spasies tussen mense. Was en reinig gereeld u hande en voorkom samedromming van mense in klein toe spasies. Dit werk! Ek sien so gereeld dat die oomblik wat mense saam met vriende op straat stap, kom die maskers af. Dit help niemand nie! Asseblief hou u maskers aan, bo-oor die neus en help om COVID te voorkom!

Weereens baie dankie aan elke gesondheidswerker en u families wat die opoffering maak om na ander om te sien. Dit gaan nie ongesiens verby nie! Daarom het Stellenbosch Unite (waarvan ons deel is) omgeepakkies bymekaar gemaak en uitgegee aan hierdie eersteliniewerkers. Die pakkies is geskenk en Stellenbosch Unite het gehelp om die meer as 900 pakkies uit te geen aan dokters, verpleegsters en ander nooddienswerkers, as ‘n klein blykie van waardering vir dit wat hulle vir ons doen.

Om te help om die verspreiding van COVID te beperk het die Munisipaliteit ‘n maskerveldtog geloods in Januarie, waar inwoners oortollige maskers kon gaan afgee by ons brandweerstasie. Ons het ook ‘n groot skenking van maskers ontvang en hierdie maskers het ons weer uitgedeel aan hawelose mense. Hawelose mense is net so kwesbaar vir COVID, en het nie altyd gereelde toegang tot skoonmaskers nie. Daarom was dit vir ons belangrik om hulle ook so te help.

Onwettige Stortings

Onwettige stortings is besig om ‘n al groter probleem te word. Ons word die afgelope tyd oorval deur oproepe en rapportering van voorvalle. Dit is uiters kommerwekkend en ek wil graag hê dat u as inwoner ook verstaan waarom onwettige storting dringend aangespreek moet word. Behalwe vir die geweldige negatiewe omgewingsimpak en gesondheidsrisiko wat dit inhou, kos dit ons geweldig baie geld om elke storting te moet gaan opruim. Dit vereis dikwels dat ons spesiale laaigrawe moet inkry, toerusting wat nie deel is van ons daaglikse werksverrigtinge nie, asook ekstra personeel. Dit beteken dat elke keer wanneer ons ‘n span moet uitstuur om onwettige stortings skoon te maak, dit u as belastingbetaler se sakke direk gaan raak. Wanneer ons die nuwe begroting vir die volgende finansiële jaar saamstel, moet dit dus ingereken word by moontlike tariefverhogings, en ek weet u gaan klaar gebuk onder geweldige ekonomiese druk. As gevolg van die druk wat COVID-19 ook op ons begroting en beplanning gesit het, is daar geen ekstra sente wat rondlê vir sulke uitdagings wat voorkom kan word nie.

Daarom smeek ek elke liewe inwoner om asseblief saam met ons te werk. As u baie vullis het wat moet weggegooi word,

steps that will compromise thousands of jobs in our region.

COVID-19

It is one year later, and COVID is still with us. The last big celebrations in town was the Woordfees. People everywhere at the festival were talking about COVID and its impact on Europe, but not in our wildest dreams could we prepare for the past year. There are various vaccines available at an international level and South Africa has received its first batches but it will still be some time before the vaccines will be readily available. That is why I am asking again that every resident adhere to the regulations. Please wear a mask when you move among other people. Wash and sanitise your hands regularly and avoid crowded, indoor spaces. It works! I so often see that when people walk around town with friends, they remove their masks. That is not helping anyone! Please keep your masks on, over your nose and help to prevent the spread of COVID!

I once again want to thank each and every healthcare worker and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice to look after others. It does not go unnoticed. That is why Stellenbosch Unite (of which we form part) collected care packages and handed it out to front line workers in the region. These care packages were donated and Stellenbosch United assisted in the distribution of more than 900 packages to doctors, nurses and other emergency workers as a small token of our gratitude for what they are doing for the community.

To curb the spread of COVID, the Municipality also launched a mask campaign in January. Residents were encouraged to donate extra masks and drop it off at our fire station. We also received a substantial donation of masks and these masks were in turn handed out to homeless people. Homeless people are just as vulnerable to COVID and they do not always have access to clean masks. That is why we also took steps to assist in this way.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is becoming a growing problem. We have recently been overwhelmed by calls and reports of incidents of illegal dumping. It is very concerning and I want to explain to you, our residents, why illegal dumping must urgently be addressed. Besides the extremely negative environmental impact and health risks associated with illegal dumping, the costs involved with cleaning up every illegal dumping incident are enormous. It often requires that we bring in special equipment like digger loaders, which we do not use every day, as well as additional staff. This means that every time we dispatch a team to clean up an illegal dumping situation, it directly impacts on your pockets as rate and taxpayers. When we compile the budget for the next financial year, these additional costs will have to be taken into account for possible tariff increases and I know that you are already under severe economic strain. Because of the pressures of COVID-19 on our budget and planning, we honestly do not have any extra cents lying around for challenges such as this that can be easily prevented.

That is why I beg each and every resident to work with us. If you have a larger than normal load of rubbish that needs to be removed, please contact us so that we can make the necessary

kontak ons asseblief om spesiale reëlings te tref. Indien u addisionele fasiliteite kort, kontak ons en ons sal help om dit in plek te sit. In areas waar daar moontlik "skips" benodig word, praat asseblief met u wyksraadslid. Navrae oor asdromme en addisionele reëlings kan gemaak word via ons *Let's Fix It* Whatsapp nommer: 0769510768. Indien u onwettige stortings sien, meld dit asseblief aan by ons wetstoepassing. U kan 'n Whatsapp stuur aan ons Bekeerkamer op 079 622 4722. Help ons om ons areas veilig en skoon te hou!

Begroting

Ons is juis nou besig met ons begrotingsproses en dis ontstellend om te sien hoe COVID ons inkomste geknou het. Ons moet finansieel verantwoordelik wees en word dus genoodsaak om baie projekte uit te skuif na ŉ volgende jaar. Dis vir my besonder sleg, want dis die laaste jaar van ons termyn as Raad en ek het noukeurig beplan oor dit wat ons graag wil agterlaat as ŉ erfenis. Nou moet baie programme uitgeskuif word. Ons fokus is egter te alle tye ŉ volhoubare finansieel gesonde Munisipaliteit en dus moet ons maar ons drome aanpas. Alle projekte wat reeds begin is, sal klaargemaak word en noodsaaklike projekte ook. Vakante poste sal dalk nie gevul kan word nie en nuwe projekte moet ook wag vir eers. U sal die detail binnekort sien vir kommentaar. Ons werk nou baie versigtig met ons fondse en hoop om gou weer na COVID te herstel. Ons is gelukkig dat ons in ŉ beter finansiële situasie is as die meeste ander munisipaliteite, maar ons moet konserwatief wees. Niemand weet hoe lank COVID nog gaan duur nie.

Ons verwag weer binnekort baie van ons studente terug en wil hul graag welkom heet. Ons hoop dit sal ons besighede ŉ hupstoot gee na die lang moeilike maande van COVID sluiting. Paasfees is baie vroeg die jaar en ek wil van die geleentheid gebruik maak om ons inwoners wat die geleentheid waarneem en vier 'n geseënde tyd toe te wens. Ook aan ons inwoners wat Pasga vier, mag dit 'n tyd van vrede en fees wees.

Wees asseblief veilig, ondersteun ons plaaslike besighede en bid asseblief vir ons mense wat steeds siek word.

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

arrangements. In areas where additional skips might be needed, please speak to your ward councillor. Enquiries with regards to rubbish bins or additional arrangements can be made via our ***Let's Fix It*** Whatsapp number: 0769510768. If you see any illegal dumping please report it to our Law Enforcement. You can send a Whatsapp to our control room on 0796224722. Please help us keep our areas clean and safe!

Budget

We are now busy with the budgeting process and it is upsetting to see how COVID as impacted on our revenue. We have to be financially responsible and we therefore have to postpone many projects to next year. This is particularly terrible news for me because it is the last year of our term as Council and I planned very carefully because we want to leave a remaining legacy. Now, many programmes must be postponed. Our focus however remains on a healthy and financially sustainable municipality and therefore we must adjust our dreams. All projects that have already been started will be completed. The same goes for critical projects as well. Vacant positions might not be filled and new projects will possibly have to wait. You will soon see the details and have an opportunity to give input. We are however working very carefully with our funds and hope to recover quickly once COVID is over. We are however very fortunate to be in a much better financial position than many other municipalities, but we will have to be conservative. No one knows how long COVID will still be present and for how long the effects will be felt.

We are expecting many of our students to return soon, and we want to welcome them back. We hope their return will give our businesses a boost after the long closure and lockdown due to COVID.

Easter is very early this year. To all our residents who celebrate it, may this be a blessed time. To our residents who celebrate Passover, may this be a time of peace and celebrations.

Please be safe, support our local businesses and pray for all our people who are still ill.

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie