

In this issue

This issue of the Swartland municipal newsletter focuses on ward committees while also keeping you informed on all municipal activities.



Bladsy 1

DA steeds in beheer

Die DA het tydens die pasafgelope verkiesing 15 van die 23 setels op die munisipale raad opgeraap. Tydens die eerste raadsvergadering op 24 Mei is die nuwe ampsdraers aangewys.



Bladsy 2

Mediese dienste teen billike pryse

Transnet se Phelophepa-gesondheidstrein besoek Malmesbury binnekort. Behoeftiges word aangemoedig om hierdie diens te benut.



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Focus on ward committees

Now's the time to let yourself be heard. Become involved in municipal matters that affect your ward by availing yourself for the coming ward committee elections.



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Illegal building will not be tolerated

The Supreme Court of Appeal recently ruled in Swartland Municipality's favour with regards to illegal building. Read more about the court's reasoning in this regard.

New office-bearers elected

Alderman Tijmen van Essen was once again elected Executive Mayor of the Swartland Municipality at the first meeting of the third Swartland municipal council that was held in Malmesbury on Tuesday, 24 May 2011. So too was councillor Maude Goliath once again elected as Executive Deputy Mayor.

In his inaugural speech alderman van Essen expressed hope that Swartland Municipality shall continue to grow as one of the most successful municipalities within the West Coast District, the Western Cape and South Africa. To ensure this, he emphasized the newly-elected politicians' duty in this regard, namely "to make a difference and not to make excuses".

Noting that still a lot can be done to improve service levels, he referred to the problems which Swartland Municipality faces, i.e. high community expectations (which have to be met with limited funds), a growing increase in outstanding debt, new legislation and the complex legal framework within which municipalities must operate and a lack of development oriented focus to create the climate for local economic development. He urged politicians to work side-by-side to ensure that:-

- Swartland Municipality is community orientated;

- the appointment of personnel is according to merit and not for political reasons;
- tenders called for by the municipality are to benefit the Swartland community by creating job opportunities;
- Swartland Municipality is governed in a clean, goal orientated, effective and corruption free manner;
- the municipal infrastructure is maintained and - where necessary - new infrastructure which is required for healthy growth and a growth in job opportunities is created; and that
- the municipality does not hinder people wanting to start businesses or grow existing businesses.

"We must adopt an attitude of adaptation to modern society and change citizens' experience of 'red-tape' to 'red-carpet'", he said. He furthermore pledged that the Swartland municipal council will be playing a key role in delivering democracy and development and shall further its vision of building sustainable partnerships with all the Swartland's people.

(Die volledige Afrikaanse en Engelse weergawes van die Burgemeester se inhuuldigingstoespraak is op die munisipale webtuiste beskikbaar.)



Swartland Municipality's office-bearers: Councillor Maude Goliath, Executive Deputy Mayor and alderman Tijmen van Essen, Executive Mayor.

Dagboek

Uitvoerende burgemeesters-komiteevergaderings (11:00):

- 20 Julie
- 11 Augustus
- 15 September
- 12 Oktober
- 9 November

Raadsvergaderings:

- 25 Augustus (14:00)
- 24 November (11:00)

Vergaderingsdatums is onderhewig aan verandering. Dit kan vooraf bevestig word deur met die Munisipaliteit se sekretariaatsdienste (Nicolette Brand of René Pretorius) te skakel.



Van die redakteur From the editor

Democracy = Participation

While there can be no disputing the impressive scale of service delivery improvements and a strong commitment to the development of a culture of participation, it would seem that most municipalities still have to extend the impact of the ward committees in the community and within the council. The continued countrywide community protests can be viewed as an expression of dissatisfaction within this realm of governance in the country.

It is a given: Where citizens participate actively in community life, the quality of life is better. Ward committees have been designed as one of the primary instruments to build bridges between people on the ground and the officials and departments that are responsible for providing the services, infrastructure and public goods that contribute to quality of life.

Swartland Municipality is serious about its constitutional obligation to provide democratic and accountable government for its residents and to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government. However, to ensure success in this regard, communities also have to take ownership of ward committees.

This newsletter aims at providing information about the ward committee system and the ward committee elections that will soon take place. You now have the opportunity to become part of a properly established forum to make yourself be heard.

Remember: The world is run by those you show up!

- This newsletter is distributed quarterly to residents of the Swartland municipal area. The English version of all Afrikaans articles in this newsletter is available on the municipal website.

Phelophepa Health Care Train at Malmesbury

The Phelophepa Health Care Train will be in the Swartland Municipality at the Malmesbury railway station for five days, from 26 to 30 September 2011. In association with Transnet, the main aim is to provide health-care services to needy communities. The train is operated on a day-to-day basis by a team of more than 40 health-care professionals.

Services offered at the train include health, eye, dental, educational and counseling clinics. The train will be available from Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 16:30. This is an ideal opportunity for the farming community especially to bring all farm workers to excellent primary health care.

The fees are minimal. Screening and health clinic consultations are free of charge. Medication is R5-00. An eye test is R10-00 and spectacles are R30-00 per pair. At the dental clinic, children under 18 pay R5-00 for treatment. Adults pay R10-00 for work done on the first two teeth and R15-00 per tooth thereafter.

For further information, please contact the Marketing Coordinator, Laurika du Bois (cell: 082 886 5583; e-mail: laurikadubois1@gmail.com).



Swartland snippets

Lees verder vir kort brokkies, datums en gebeure wat u raak. / Read here for short snippets, dates and events that affect you.

- In plaas van om by die Verkeersafdeling in die tou te kom staan, neem kennis dat u ook die internet kan benut om u motorlisensie te hernieu. Skakel met Annatjie Loots by die munisipaliteit om 'n verwysingsnommer te bekom wanneer u 'n inbetaling via die internet doen. Hou egter u hernuwingskennisgewing byderhand. Navrae kan ook gerig word aan Anita Nieuwoudt by die Verkeersafdeling.
- The Municipality's by-law regulating the display of posters and banners requires that prior approval must be obtained from the Municipality for any posters or banners to be displayed or erected in the Swartland municipal area. A refundable deposit of R200,00 must be paid by applicants in advance. A charge of R10,00 per poster shall be recovered from the applicant's deposit in the event of any or all of the posters not being removed by the applicant on the date it is required to do so in terms of the approval granted. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the by-law, shall be guilty of an offence and will be fined. Posters and banners that are displayed without council approval, shall be removed forthwith. Applications are to be made with mr Isak Adams at the Corporate Services directorate.

Opgradering van Kelderpad word realiteit

Tenders vir die opgradering van die bestaande hoofpad vanaf Rainierstraat in Malmesbury tot by die afrit na die Riebeeck Vallei is as gevolg van omgewings- en administratiewe vereistes met ongeveer tien maande vertraag.

Na verskeie samesprekings tussen die Munisipaliteit en ingenieurs van die Departement van Vervoer en Openbare Werke, is die projek op 'n nuwe tydsraamwerk geplaas. Tenders is intussen in die pers aangevra, en die aanstelling van 'n bevoegde kontrakteur behoort teen Augustus 2011 te realiseer.

Die totale lengte van die pad is 3,98 km waarvan 800 meter as 'n binne-stedelike pad hanteer word. Kostegewys word die totale projek op R36 miljoen beraam waarvan die Munisipaliteit vir R3,1 miljoen moet instaan vir die gedeelte van die pad wat deur die dorp loop.

Die opgradering van hierdie hoofpad was die laaste twintig jaar hoog op die prioriteitslys van die Wes-Kaapse provinsiale regering, maar kon weens uiteenlopende redes nog net nie realiseer nie.

Sedert November 2009 het daar intense onderhandelinge tussen Swartland Munisipaliteit en die Provinsiale Administrasie Wes-Kaap plaasgevind, wat uiteindelik vir 'n wen-wen situasie gesorg het.

Daar sal gereeld met die publiek gekommunikeer word oor die verkeersontwriging wat met die projek gepaardgaan.

Ward committees: Use forum to be part of decision making

Following the local government elections, the newly elected ward councillors now have to set up ward committees in each of the twelve wards within the Swartland municipal area.

The ward participatory system was introduced in 2001 by the government as a credible system through which citizen participation in local governance is expected to take place, and thus to enhance participatory democracy in local government. The purpose of the ward committee is to assist the councillor with organising consultation, spreading information and encouraging participation in municipal matters affecting residents.

The election of ward committee members will take place at the end of August. On 7 July 2011 an advertisement will be placed in the media and on the municipal website, after which (until 11 August 2011) interest groups and individuals will be allowed thirty days to submit nominations. The dates and venues for the elections will also be published in the press and on the website.

This section of the newsletter aims at answering questions about the ward committee system. For more information or in order to obtain a copy of the constitution of the ward committees, please contact Nicolette Brand telephonically or at brandn@swartland.org.za.

How are ward committees composed?

A ward committee consist of the ward councillor, who is - ipso facto - the chairperson of the committee, and ten other persons. Six members are to represent sectors that have a demonstrated interest in the ward and/or the geographic areas that represent an equitable distribution of residents in the ward. Of the remaining four members, at least two must be of the female gender.

Watter status geniet wykskomitees?

Wykskomitees is adviesforums, wat hul wyksraads lid moet adviseer oor sake wat die

wyk raak. Dit is nie 'n politieke platform nie, maar in die eerste plek 'n komitee van die gemeenskap. Die komitee moet sy funksies sonder vrees, begunstiging of vooroordeel verrig.

What are the functions of ward committees?

Ward committees must

- advise the ward councillor on matters affecting the ward;
- assist the ward councillor in identifying conditions, problems and needs of residents;
- spread information in the ward concerning municipal issues, such as the budget, integrated development planning (IDP) and service delivery options;
- obtain input from residents concerning municipal issues such as the budget, integrated development planning (IDP) and service delivery options;
- receive queries and complaints from residents concerning municipal service delivery; and
- interact with other forums and organizations concerning matters affecting the ward.

A ward committee member shall on a regular basis give feedback on ward committee matters to the geographic area, sector or category he/she represents.

Hoe gereeld kom die komitees bymekaar en word die lede daarvan vergoed?

Die individuele wykskomitees kom sowat agt keer per jaar byeen, gewoonlik na ure. Die kwessies wat hier bespreek word, word deur die wyksraads lid verwys na of die toepaslike portefeuljekomitee van die munisipaliteit of - indien dit 'n kwessie is wat op amptenaarsvlak mee gehandel kan word - na 'n komitee van raadslede en amptenare, wat senior- en middelvlakbestuurslede insluit.

Lede van die wykskomitees ontvang 'n nominale sittingsfooi vir elke vergadering wat hulle bywoon asook vergoeding vir

reiskostes waar meer as tien kilometer afgelê word om vergaderings by te woon.

Who qualifies to be elected to the ward committee?

To be eligible for election as a member of a ward committee, a person -

MUST be a registered voter on the voters roll of the ward for which he/she is nominated;

MAY NOT BE

- a member of the council
- an employee of Swartland Municipality or the West Coast District Municipality
- indebted to the municipality for more than three months
- an unrehabilitated insolvent
- nominated if such a person has been convicted of any offence after February 1997 and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period of not less than twelve months.

Equitable representation of gender, diversity of interest and geographic representation must be pursued at all times.

Mag die publiek wykskomiteevergaderings bywoon?

Ja, asseblief! Deelname aan vergaderings sal egter beperk word deur die wyksraads lid. Indien u sekere sake tydens die vergadering bespreek wil hê, meld dit vooraf by u wyksraads lid of 'n wykskomitee lid aan. Om insette te kan lewer, sal u ook in die betrokke wyk woonagtig moet wees.

Wie mag stem vir 'n wykskomitee lid?

Die verkiesing van wykskomitees is 'n demokratiese proses waaraan almal wat op die kieserslys geregistreer is, mag deelneem. U mag egter slegs stem vir die verkiesing van komitee lede vir die wyk waarin u woonagtig is, en mits u op daardie segment van die kieserslys geregistreer is.

'n Kaart wat die wyksindeling toon van die Swartland se twaalf nuwe wyke, is op die munisipale webtuiste beskikbaar.

Is u by opleiding betrokke?

Die direktoraat Gemeenskapsontwikkelingsdienste is besig om 'n databasis van alle organisasies en persone wat by enige vorm van opleiding betrokke is, saam te stel en wil ook graag die besonderhede bekom van mense wat graag as opleiers betrokke wil raak.

Hierdie inligting sal die direktoraat in staat stel om 'n opname te kan doen van opleidingsbehoefes in die Swartland en om oorhoofse skakeling en beplanning in hierdie verband te koördineer.

Tania Boonzaaier-Snel of Senobia van Schalkwyk kan hieroor gekontak word teen Maandag, 27 Junie 2011, hetsy telefonies by 022-486 4593, per faks by 022-486 4415 of per e-pos by snelt@swartland.org.za of vanschalkwyk@swartland.org.za.



Vroeë Kinderontwikkelingsentrums (crèches)

Dit is 'n voldonge feit: Kinders wat blootstelling aan voorskoolse onderrig gehad het, presteer beter op skool. Hierdie kinders staan 'n beter kans om te slaag, is meer gedissiplineerd en sosialiseer beter.

Vroeë kindersonwikkelingsentrums (VKO's) bied verder aan werkende ouers die gemoedsrus dat hul kinders onder veilige toesig is.

Dit is belangrik dat ouers aandring op kwaliteit voorskoolse onderrig. Die nuwe standaard van die Departement van Sosiale Ontwikkeling vereis dat die opvoeder, en veral die prinsipaal van die skool, oor 'n kwalifikasie gelykstaande aan (minimum) Vlak 4 moet beskik. Behalwe dat u moet seker maak dat die persoon wat na u kinders omsien oor die toepaslike kwalifikasie beskik, moet u navraag doen of die skool waarin u u kind plaas, by die Departement Maatskaplike Dienste geregistreer is, om te verseker dat u kind in 'n higiëniese, veilige omgewing versorg word. **Alle skole met meer as ses kinders moet by die Departement registreer.**

VKO's word bestuur deur 'n komitee. Maak seker dat u betrokke is by die bestuur van die VKO wat u kind bywoon. So kan u seker maak dat besluite in belang van u kind geneem word en dat die fooie wat u betaal nie wanadministreer word nie. Maak dit egter u prioriteit om die VKO se fooie te betaal. Hulle kyk immers na u kosbaarste besitting! Navrae: Clerise by 022-433 2246 of 083 800 1975

Posbus Projek bied hulp aan die jeug

Die Swartland Jeugadviesentrum, wat vanaf die llinge Lethu Thusong Sentrum in Malmesbury opereer, fokus op die verbetering van die lewenskwaliteit van die jeug en lewer aan jongmense hulp met die volgende: die tik van CV's, beroepsvoorigting, hulp met beursaansoeke en die identifisering van uitgangseleenthede.

Om hierdie dienste meer toeganklik te maak vir al die jongmense in die Swartland, is die sg. Posbus Projek van stapel gestuur. Navrae en versoeke om hulp kan geplaas word in die posbusse wat op die volgende punte beskikbaar is: Riebeek-Wes Biblioteek; Riverlands (by die skool); Chatsworth Biblioteek; Welgemeend Primêre skool; Ruststasie se skool; Withoogte; Goedehoop.

Die Wet op die Nasionale Bouregulasies en Boustandaarde, 1977 plaas die onus op die eienaar om 'n bouplan in te dien vir alle bouwerke op sy perseel. Slegs indien die vereistes van die wet nagekom word, sal die Munisipaliteit die bouwerk goedkeur.

Indien u bouwerk gedoen het sonder om die voorafgoedkeuring van die Munisipaliteit te bekom, oortree u die bepalings van die wet en loop u gevaar dat 'n slopingsbevel teen u verkry mag word. U kan met die boubeheerbeampte (Michael Jacobs) of enige bouinspekteur by die Munisipaliteit in verbinding tree indien u vrae het, of onwettige bouwerk wil rapporteer.

AARTO - The latest

During the past year several dates announced by the Department of Transport have come and gone without the promised national rollout of AARTO and one can therefore not blame the public for being confused about this.

These delays were as a result of numerous problems experienced during the test phases of AARTO in Johannesburg and Pretoria during the past two years.

The minister of transport however on the 15th of April published the proposed amendments to the existing AARTO regulations. These new regulations seem to be more "user friendly" and streamlined in terms of the flow of documents during the four phases of the administrative process.

It is also reported by IT Web that the

Road Traffic Management Corporation indicated that the next step in the public participation process will be an AARTO summit at the end of June. A wide range of stakeholders such as organised labour, local authorities, provinces and taxi organisations will participate.

National implementation dates are currently not available and will be published by the minister of transport.

It is however widely believed that AARTO will be rolled out to areas such as Cape Town and Durban soon after the consultation process has been finalized and the new regulations have been promulgated. Whichever way you look at it, AARTO is here to stay.

(From: SA Labour Guide, June 2011)

Appeal court rules in Municipality's favour

The Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) recently ruled in favour of Swartland Municipality in an application by Standard Bank to set aside a magistrate's court order that was obtained by the Municipality during April 2009 for the demolition of illegal structures that was erected by a property owner in the Tafelzicht residential area in Malmesbury without first obtaining permission from the Municipality. No building plans were submitted by the owner and some of the structures were even built in contravention of the zoning regulations.

Two mortgage bonds over the property were registered in favour of the bank. The bank later, one day after the magistrate's order that the illegal structures be demolished, foreclosed on the property.

When the order came to the attention of the bank it concluded an agreement [later made an order of the court] with the Municipality to the effect that neither the sale in execution nor the demolition would take place before the bank had instituted an urgent application to stay the demolition. The basis of the application was that the bank had a right in the property as bond holder, and that it should have been joined as a party to the application in the magistrate's court. The Cape High Court held that it did not have an interest in the outcome of that litigation - an application for the demolition of an illegally erected structure. The Bank then lodged an appeal with the SCA.

The SCA held that the bank had a clear and substantial interest in the outcome of the application in the magistrate's court and that the municipality ought to have joined the bank as a respondent in the application. This, the court said, did not however mean that the magistrate's demolition order was a nullity.

The main question the SCA had to decide was thus whether the bank was entitled to relief in the high court. The SCA found in the negative and suggested that the Bank's proper course of action would have been to seek rescission of the order in terms of rule 49(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Rules of Court.

To succeed they would have had to show good cause. The SCA was of the opinion that it was 'difficult to see how it could have shown good cause'.

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

Contact us

Swartland Municipality's head offices are located in Church Street, Malmesbury. Our office hours are:

Mondays to Thursdays:

8:00 - 13:00, 13:45 - 17:00

Fridays:

8:00 - 13:00, 13:45 - 15:45

Visit us or direct all enquiries through one of the following channels:

Postal address:
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Tel: 022 487 9400

Fax: 022 487 9440

E-mail: swartlandmun@swartland.org.za

Other useful contacts

Emergencies during office hours:
022 487 9400

Emergencies after hours: 022 487 6479

Ombudsman: ombudsman@swartland.org.za
or 022 487 9448

Swartland Tourism: 022 487 2989 or
swartland@cornergate.com