

NOVEMBER 2009

Full Blue Flag status for Yzerfontein!

The Blue Flag will once again flutter on Yzerfontein's main beach from 11 December to 14 January this year!

About 400 m of the main beach area has been awarded full Blue Flag status this year, as opposed to only pilot-project status the previous two years.

This international award was recently made by the Minister of Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, for 29 beaches in South Africa. This status means that these beaches meet the requirements for safe access to swimming areas and for appropriate facilities for visitors.

Wiehahn Carstens of the municipal offices in Yzerfontein has been appointed by **SM** to ensure that all activities and obligations resulting from the status are complied with.

The accompanying rules will apply every day from 10:00 to 16:00.

Water samples will be tested every week by independent laboratories. If the water does not satisfy the necessary standards, the blue flag will not be hoisted.

Life-savers will be on duty throughout this period and the National Sea Rescue Institute will provide a support service with daily boat patrols.

An appeal is made to residents and visitors alike not to take alcohol to the beach. They are also requested not to walk their dogs on the beach during Blue Flag times.

You can report any damage to municipal property to Wiehahn at 022 451 2366 or 082 925 2244.

CLOSING OF OFFICES

PLEASE NOTE that the **SM** offices will close at 13:00 instead of 17:00 on 24 and 31 December.

Pay points in all our towns will close at 12:00.

Sondeza Youth Camp – from strength strength

The sixth *Sondeza* Afri-Youth Camp will be held at the Ganzekraal holiday resort from 4 to 13 December. This year's theme is "Your best foot forward to possibility – walking together".

The camp will be attended by 63 learners from schools stretching from Malmesbury to as far as Nuwerus – and eight representatives from Ethiopia, ten from Germany and ten from England!

Some of the topics that will be covered are emotional intelligence, culture and history, sustainability, team-building and community awareness. Learners will have to identify projects to implement in their communities after the camp.

SM is presenting the camp in conjunction with ABSA bank, the West Coast District Municipality, the Western Cape Government and the Sondeza Initiative.

Permission required to operate home shops

Home shops, many of which are operated in the Swartland, play an important role in the sustainable functioning of residential areas in our towns as a form of entrepreneurship that is found throughout South Africa.

The concept entails either the owner or the resident of a property using or converting part of her or his house to operate a shop but still using most of the property for residential purposes.

In the **SM** area, the operation of home shops is regulated by zoning-scheme regulations, which apply to every town. According to these regulations, a home shop may not be operated without the permission of the municipality concerned.

If you are therefore at present operating a home shop without permission, please contact the town-planning division of the Malmesbury municipality to help you with your application.

SM is currently doing a survey of all the

home shops in its municipal area to regulate their operation.

Do please feel free to contact Alwyn Burger or Gerrit Goosen at 022 487 9400 with any questions.

Drive safely: Have your vehicle tested for free!

You can now pop in at the traffic-testing points in both Malmesbury and Moorreesburg to have your vehicle tested for free between 1 and 11 December!

Do make use of this offer to have any faults in your vehicle pointed out. This will enable you to have them repaired and to travel safely over the festive season.

Speaking of which: Drive carefully and responsibly during the holiday period!

The Municipal Police, together with the South African Police Service and Provincial Traffic Services, will – as always – be visible on the roads to help ensure your safety.

2010 career exhibit

SM will present its third annual career exhibit, in which 30 training institutions will participate, at the Wesbank community hall in Malmesbury on 8 February 2010, from 12:00 to 15:00.

All Grade 9 to Grade 12 learners will be involved in the exhibit; everyone, however, is welcome.

Contact Demitri Hendricks at 022 486 4593 for more information.

Results of by-elections

Two new councillors have recently been elected to the municipal council to fill the seats that became vacant in Wards 2 and 3 because of, respectively, the resignation and the death of the councillors in those wards.

The new councillors are

- Adam Atkins (DA) for Ward 2 (Moorreesburgdorp); and
- Rudi du Plooy (DA) for Ward 3 (Riebeeek West/ Riebeeek Kasteel/PPC).

Transfer of sports function

The management of sports facilities and coordination of sports matters has recently – mainly for practical reasons – been transferred from the municipality's Development Services to its Civil Services directorates.

HANJO KOTZE, who took over from Ian Loubser as sports officer on 1 November, can be contacted about sports matters at 074 271 4451.

Dates, times, places for fireworks over festive season

The municipal regulations on the discharge of fireworks in the Swartland reserve the following days and times for the discharge of fireworks over the festive season:

- 31 December from 10:00 to 02:00.
- 1 and 2 January from 10:00 to 22:00.

Fireworks may be discharged only at the following places:

Malmesbury: the Wesbank sports grounds and Ilinge Lethu soccer fields; **Moorreesburg:** the Gene Louw sports grounds; **Darling:** the Gabriel Pharoah sports grounds; **Koringberg:** the area near the taxi stand; **Zyferfontein:** a 300 m strip on the main beach in front of the caravan park; **Riebeeek Kasteel, Riebeeek West, Abbotsdale, Chatsworth, Kalbaskraal and Riverlands:** the municipal sports grounds.

Offenders will be fined as follows:

- R300 for the discharge of fireworks in places other than those mentioned above.
- R1 000 for public firework displays that are held without the prior written permission both of **SM** and of the chief inspector of explosives.

Operation of sewage vacuum tanks in urban areas

The tariff structure currently applicable to the pumping of sewage tanks in urban areas provides for a sewage tank to be pumped twice a month for R95.05. A tank can be pumped more than twice a month for R477.00 per additional pumping.

In respect of the second monthly pumping, **SM** is increasingly experiencing residents demanding this second pumping without their sewage tanks being full because they feel that they pay for this second pumping irrespective of their tanks being full or not. This practice has negative consequences for the operation of our sewage services because valuable time is lost and unnecessary costs are incurred by **SM** staff driving after near-empty sewage tanks.

We kindly appeal to you to send for the sewage truck only when your sewage tank is nearly full. **SM** will otherwise be necessitated to adjust its tariff structures and impose fines should this practice continue.

Dates, ways to pay accounts

PLEASE note that, if the final day for the payment of municipal-service accounts falls on a public holiday, a Sunday or a day on which the municipal offices are closed to the public, you should make payment **on the last work day before the final day** on which the municipal offices are open.

You should therefore pay your November account, due on 31 December 2009, in person, at the latest, on 31 December, since this is the last work day of the month.

PLEASE NOTE, however, that SM's pay points will already close as early as 12:00 on 31 December because of the holiday season.

According to these measures, your December account will therefore be due on Friday, 29 January, and your January account will be due on Friday, 26 February, these being the last work days of the relevant months.

If you use alternative pay points and methods, such as at Pick 'n Pay, at the post office or through the internet, or if you make direct bank payments other than at ABSA bank, we kindly request that you pay your accounts at least two or, preferably, three work days before the due dates, since electronic payment is not reflected immediately in **SM's** bank account. We also request that you fax proof of electronic payment to the Municipality to prevent your electricity supply being terminated or electricity sales being blocked. If you fail to do so, you do run the risk of your services being terminated and possibly being without electricity over a weekend!

Donate old magazines and books to the benefit of others

Last year, **SM**, with the help of the Centre for Early Childhood Development, drew up a child-care facilities policy.

Some of the other stakeholders that have been met to implement this policy are the Departments of Education, Social Services and Health, the South African Police Service, the Municipal Police Service, the West Coast District Municipality, Huis van Heerde, Elkana, the Goedgedacht Trust, the early child development forum and various welfare organisations.

These stakeholders will meet four times a year from now on to coordinate child-development services and to identify and address needs and problems.

One of the initiatives to be launched is making reading material available to less-privileged children.

If you can help us with this initiative, you can bring old magazines and children's books to Marguerite Holtzhausen at our municipal offices in Malmesbury, which will then be distributed over the entire Swartland by community organisations and child-care centres.

Enquiries: Marguerite Holzhausen at 082 828 7813.

NOTE WELL!

Be on the lookout for the release of **SM's client-service charter** early in the new year. This manifesto sets out standards of service that you can expect in your dealings with your municipality.