



Cederberg Eerste

Cederberg Eerste
Gemeenskapsorganisasie

Cederberg First
Residents Association

Posbus 44, Clanwilliam 8135
Epos: info@cederbergeerste.co.za

21 Desember 2023

OPE BRIEF – DESEMBER 2023

aan die CE Familie, ondersteuners en vriende

Geseënde Kersfees... en onthou

stilte en kalmte beteken nie gebrek aan optrede nie

Hallo CE-familie, ondersteuners en vriende

Daar is twee redes vir hierdie spesifieke Ope Brief en kommunikasie. Die *eerste* rede is om u geseënde Kersfees toe te wens en die *tweede* is om vir u 'n vinnige opdateringsverslag te gee oor wat in Cederberg munisipaliteit gebeur.



Op 14 Desember, tydens die finale munisipale raadsvergadering vir 2023, het die uitvoerende burgemeester, dr Ruben Richards, 'n omvattende bywerkingsverslag ter tafel gelê wat u van die munisipaliteit se webwerf moet kan aflaai. Ek sal net 'n paar hoogtepunte in hierdie brief verskaf. Laai asseblief die volledige verslag af en lees dit: *SERVICE DELIVERY – A tribute to the blue-collar army (surgeons)*.

<https://www.facebook.com/100063740941090/posts/840308874770470/>



VERSLAGDOENING AAN DIE REGTE BASE VAN CE

Ek herinner u daaraan dat u, veral die geregistreerde CE-kiesers, die eienaars van CE is. Ja, u is die regte base van CE en het die kragtigste en kosbaarste kommoditeit wat u stem / stembrief genoem word. U het CE aan bewind gestem. Gevolglik is ons, die drie (3) CE-raadslede (Ruben Richards, Martin Bergh, Andre Mouton) u dienaars wat u in die Cederberg-munisipaliteit verteenwoordig.



Ons suksesse is u suksesse. Dankie vir daardie vertroue. As gevolg van ons koalisie is ons die meerderheid in die raad en regeer ons dus die Cederberg Munisipaliteit. En so, met hierdie Ope Brief rapporteer ons terug aan u, ons base, na 'n baie uitdagende jaar van 2023.

GESEËNDE KERSFEES 2023

Die 2023 Kersfees- en Suid-Afrikaanse somervakansie het aangebreek. Suid-Afrika het "amptelik" afgeskakel – nie weens beurtkrag nie, maar omdat dit tradisioneel die tydperk is wat die begin van ons somervakansie is. Dit is in hierdie tyd dat ons probeer om 'n blaaskans te neem, kontak te maak met die gesin en net te ontspan - en miskien 'n bietjie te veel drink en eet. En hoekom nie!

In hierdie feestelike gees wil ons die CE-familie 'n geseënde Kersfees en 'n geseënde en produktiewe nuwe jaar toewens. Die afgelope jaar, 2023, was ekonomies en polities gesproke moeilik. Ons is in Junie amper heeltemal weggespoel deur woedende vloede.

[WC Floods | Infrastructure damaged after devastating floods \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Die afgelope weke het ons amper weggesmelt as gevolg van buitengewoon vroeë en snikhete hittegolwe. Te midde van dit alles moet ons ook erken dat die lewe reeds moeilik en soms te veel is om te dra. En dan moet ons boonop met eksterne kragte buite ons beheer stry. Eish.



So, ons nooi julle uit om diep asem te haal, en wens julle al die krag en uithouvermoë toe om jou uitdagings in die gesig te staar. Weereens, geseënde Kersfees.

DIE EENDSINDROOM - *Stilte en kalmte beteken nie gebrek nie*

Laat ek julle nou op hoogte hou van gebeure binne die munisipaliteit waar ons julle verteenwoordig. Die Eendsindroom beskryf ons akkuraat gedurende die afgelope jaar. Het jy al gehoor van die Eendsindroom? Dit is 'n term wat die verskynsel beskryf om kalm en ontspanne op die oppervlak te lyk, terwyl dit woes sukkel om allerhande lewendruk daaronder te hanteer.



Die term is geïnspireer deur die beeld van 'n eend wat glad op die water gly, maar woes onder die wateroppervlak roei (of skop), soos in die prentjie geïllustreer. Dit lyk dus of die eend moeiteeloos beweeg ... Maar eintlik is daar soveel wat agter die skerms aangaan. As jy net geweet het wat regtig hieronder aangaan sou jy geskok (of beïndruk) wees.

Die eendsindroom beskryf ons gepas binne die munisipaliteit. As CE-raadslede, saam met ons koalisievennote, probeer ons kalm bly, en soos die eend, gly ons oor die water. Maar om die waarheid te sê, ons is hectically besig – amper tot op 'n punt van waansin, terwyl ons probeer om die munisipaliteit te red van allerhande bedreigings, insluitend finansiële en diensleweringsbedreigings. Ons is ook baie aktief in verskeie gemeenskapsbetrokkenhede.

Hier is soveel om te vertel en so min spasie. Gaan asseblief die munisipaliteit se Facebook-blad na wat besonderhede verskaf vir nog aktiwiteite en projekte. Wat hieronder gerapporteer word, is slegs 'n klein voorbeeld van die aktiwiteite waarby ons betrokke is as verteenwoordigers van CE.



Finansies – Die munisipaliteit bly in die greep van finansiële beperkings. Ons het in 2021 'n bankrot munisipaliteit geërf met wat 'n onbefondsde begroting genoem word. Twee jaar later, en nadat ons baie onnodige uitgawes besnoei het, is ons aan die herstel. Ons is nog nie uit die bos nie, maar ek is vol vertroue dat ons teen Julie 2024 'n befondsde begroting kan bereik. Dit gaan egter 'n uitdaging wees.



Governance / Bestuur – Ons hersien en werk voortdurend ons beleide en verordeninge sodat ons in lyn is met nuwe wetgewing. Verder is ek bly dat ons raadsvergaderings nou kalm en produktief is. Dit was nie altyd so nie.

Nuwe bloed – nuwe topbestuur – Ons is bly om te rapporteer dat die munisipaliteit vanaf middel November 2023 'n volle topbestuurspan het. Dit beteken ons het 'n MM (Gerrit Matthyse) en drie voltydse direkteure – Nico Smit (Finansies), Riaan De Ridder (Tegnies) en Henry Witbooi (Ondersteuningsdienste). Ons het ook 'n groeiende span nuwe bestuurders onder hierdie direkteure.

Dienslewering – Ons is op pad om beter en betroubare dienste aan ons inwoners te lewer. Die onlangse slaggatherstelprojek is 'n vroeë aanduiding van ons potensiaal en vermoë. Na die skade wat die vloede aangerig het, moes ons diep delf en het daarin geslaag om 7057 slaggate in 'n rekordgetal van 17 dae te herstel. Ons probeer ook dringend die swak gehalte van water regmaak, veral in Clanwilliam. Ons is ook besig om ons rioolaanlegte op te gradeer sodat ons nie besoedelde en onbehandelde water terug in die omgewing pomp nie. Ons vullishope word nou beter onderhou sedert die aankoms van ons nuwe "geel vloot" voertuie - een stootskrapeer en twee TLB's - algemeen genoem diggerloaders.



Nov 2023 – The Mayor, Dr Richards, neem aflewering van nuwe Yellow Fleet-voertuie.



Waardering vir blouboordjiewerke – Daar sal geen dienslewering



Des 2023 - Clanwilliam-blouboordjiewerke ontvang sertifikate van waardering, vergesel van die MM (Gerrit Matthyse) en dr Richards op die voorgrond met die selfie.

burgemeester, dr Richards, het verlede week (11-12 Desember) al ons dorpe herbesoek om dankie te sê aan ons werkers vir hul goeie werk, toewyding en bydrae tot die herbou van ons munisipaliteit tot sy eertydse glorie. Die munisipale bestuurder het aangesluit en sertifikate van waardering aan die werkers uitgedeel.

wees sonder ons „blue-collar workers“ blouboordjiewerke en almal wat agter die skerms werk om te verseker dat dienslewering plaasvind nie. Die



Mayor Ruben Richards sluit aan by slaggatherstelspanne in Citrusdal.

GEMEENSKAPSBETROKKENHEIDSAKTIVITEITE – Benewens administratiewe werk, het burgemeester Richards ook tyd gemaak om aan gemeenskapsgebaseerde aktiwiteite deel te neem. Dit sluit in deelname aan die lewendige Rieldans-kompetisiegeleentheid, die fasilitering van 'n seminar om geslagsgebaseerde geweld te bekamp, die bekendstelling van die Arrive Alive-veldtog, die oorhandiging van titelaktes aan inwoners en die bou van pragtige tuine.



RIELDANS - Vier inheemse Khoi- en San-kultuur - Rieldans is die oudste inheemse kulturele dansvorm in Suid-Afrika. Op 9 Desember 2023 het die jaarlikse Suid-Afrikaanse Rieldans-kompetisie in Clanwilliam plaasgevind. Die uitvoerende burgemeester, dr Richards, het die hooftoespraak gelewer en die dag saam met verskeie Rieldans-groepe deurgebring om die verskillende uitvoerings van die dansgroepe van jonger as 14 jaar tot ouer dansgroepe te vier. Soms kon die pensioen-ouderdom mamma's hulself nie betuel nie en hulle het ook 'n paar danspassies gewys.



Dec 2023 – Cllr Dr Richards lewer hooftoespraak by 2023 ATKV Rieldans-kompetisie in Clanwilliam.

Vroeër, in September, en as deel van Erfenisvieringe, het die burgemeester toesprake gelewer ter viering van die geskiedenis en erfenis van Khoi en San. Een van die toesprake was „Kom ons eer on voorouers - Onthou die verlede met waardering.“

Arrive Alive – Padveiligheidsveldtog

– Die Uitvoerende Burgemeester het die jaarlikse padveiligheidsbewusmakingsveldtog, algemeen bekend as ARRIVE ALIVE, van stapel gestuur. Dit het op die N7-verbygaande Clanwilliam plaasgevind. Sien die munisipale facebook-blad vir meer besonderhede.

https://fb.watch/p2_JRIan5N/

Motoriste is by 'n padblokkade afgetrek en 'n paar motors is deursoek. Motoriste en passasiers is ook gratis sifting vir cholesterol en MIV-vigs en ook bloeddruk aangebied.



Des 2023 – Arrive Alive-veldtog - Burgemeester Richards het SAPD, munisipale wetstoepassing en deelnemende NGO's toegesprek by die bekendstelling van die 2023 Arrive Alive-veldtog langs die N7-snelweg langs Clanwilliam.



AGTERPAKHUIS KONFERENSIE - *Op pad na die ontwikkeling van gesonder toekomstige geslagte* - Dr Ruben Richards, Uitvoerende Burgemeester van Cederberg Munisipaliteit het op 19 Oktober



2023 'n toespraak gelewer by die 2023 Konferensie van die Nasionale Skoolvoedingsprogram wat by Elizabethfontein Primêre Skool, Agterpakhuis, Cederberg, Wes-Kaap gehou is.

UITTREKSEL UIT DIE BURGEMEESTER SE TOESPRAAK

Baie geluk aan die Wes-Kaapse Onderwysdepartement en veral aan julle, Hoof, Ms Dames, en die span hier by Laerskool Elizabethfontein wat gekies is as die skool in die Wes-Kaap Provinsie van Suid-Afrika om hierdie 2023 konferensie van die Nasionale Skole Voedingsprogram aan te bied.

As uitvoerende burgemeester en eerste burger van die Cederberg praat ek namens al ons burgers van die Cederberg as ek sê dat ons trots voel dat ons klein plaasskooltjie hier by Elizabethfontein in die geskiedenisboeke ingeëts is vir die aanbieding van hierdie belangrike konferensie met sy fokus op voeding en goeie



gesondheid. Ek het nou nog een ding om oor te spog as ek oor ons Cederberg-streek praat.

Daar is geen twyfel dat die Nasionale Skolevoedingsprogram 'n uitdagende taak in die gesig staar, gegewe die hoë vlakke van armoede en swak voeding onder miljoene leerders. Dit is tragies, maar tog waar, dat die enigste voedsame maaltyd van die dag vir te veel leerders die een is wat hulle deur hierdie voedingskema by die skool ontvang. Ek word vertel dat die Nasionale Skoolvoedingsprogram elke dag by die skool meer as 9 miljoen leerders voedsame maaltye voed.

Welgedaan aan die voedingsprogram. U vul letterlik die honger- en voedingsgap in ons samelewing. Ons is deeglik bewus daarvan dat die vermoë van leerders om sukses te behaal aansienlik verbeter word deur wanvoeding te bekamp en honger te verminder.

Ten slotte wens ek hierdie voedingsprogram baie krag en baie meer geld toe sodat ons die ontwikkeling van toekomstige geslagte gesonde burgers kan waarborg. Weereens welkom en ook dankie dat julle in die Cederberg was.

CE-raadslid Andre Mouton versprei meer as 350 Kersbokse aan behoeftige gesinne in wyk 6 – Wupperthal.

Die afgelope paar weke het Andre Mouton hampers en "Kersboksgeskenke" uitgedeel aan inwoners van die Cederberg wat



ver in die berge rondom Wupperthal vasgesteek is – daar by die buite stasies.



Andre is die wyksraadslid wat die Wupperthal-tussenverkiesing in Februarie 2023 gewen het en is dus verantwoordelik vir wyk 6 - Wupperthal.

Danksy skenkings wat van 'n reeks donateurs ontvang is, kon CE deur André meer as 350 kersbokse in wyk 6 versprei, insluitend die buite sendingstasies van Wupperthal, en ook Algerië en Paleisheuvel wat almal deel vorm van wyk 6. Wyk 6 beslaan 'n massiewe gebied.



GEVOLGTREKKING - *Stilte beteken nie gebrek aan optrede nie*

Ek dink u sal saamstem dat hoewel CE blykbaar stil is, dit nie beteken dat daar gebrek aan optrede was nie. Die CE-raadslede was en bly aktief – in die stilte. Ons is soos daardie eend wat moeiteloos oor die water gly, maar sy voete roei woes.

Ons wens u almal 'n veilige en aangename Kersfees en 'n voorspoedige nuwe jaar toe.

Dr Ruben Richards
(Leier, Cederberg Eerste)

Vir media navrae: info@cederbergeerste.co.za



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OPEN LETTER – DECEMBER 2023

to the CE Family, supporters and friends

Merry Christmas ... and remember
silence and calm does not mean inaction

Hello CE Family, Supporters and Friends



There are two reasons for this particular Open Letter and communication. The *first* reason is to wish you merry christmas and the *second* is to provide you a quick update report on what is happening in Cederberg municipality.

On 14 December, at the final municipal council meeting for 2023, I tabled a comprehensive update report which you should be able to download from the website of the municipality. I will just provide some highlights in this letter. Please download and read that full report which I have entitled: *SERVICE DELIVERY – A tribute to the blue-collar army (surgeons)*.

<https://www.facebook.com/100063740941090/posts/840308874770470/>



REPORTING TO THE REAL BOSSES OF CE

I remind you, especially the registered CE voters, that you are the owners of CE. Yes, you are the real bosses of CE and have the most powerful and precious commodity called your vote/ballot. You voted CE into power. Consequently, we, the three (3) CE councillors (Ruben Richards, Martin Bergh, Andre Mouton) are your servants who represent you in the Cederberg Municipality. Thank you for that trust. Our successes are your successes. As a result of our coalition, we are the majority in council and therefore govern the Cederberg Municipality. And so, with this Open Letter we are reporting back to you, our bosses after a very challenging year of 2023.



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2023

The 2023 Christmas and South African summer holidays have arrived. South Africa has “officially” switched off – not because of loadshedding, but because traditionally this is the period which marks the start of our summer holidays. It is during this time that we try to “take a break”, connect with family and just relax – and maybe drink and eat a bit too much. And why not!

In this festive spirit, I want to wish the CE family a merry Christmas and a blessed and productive new year. The past year, 2023, has been one bereft with extreme weather conditions and difficult times, economically and politically speaking. We were almost completely washed away in June by raging floods.

[WC Floods | Infrastructure damaged after devastating floods \(youtube.com\)](#)

In the past weeks we have almost melted away because of unusually early and sweltering heatwaves. In the midst of all of that we also must admit that life is already hard and sometimes too much to bear. And then, on top of that we must contend with external forces beyond our control. Eish!!



So, I invite you to take a deep breath as I wish you all the strength and stamina to face your challenges. Again, merry christmas.

THE DUCK SYNDROME - *Silence and calm does not mean inaction*

Now let me update you on happenings inside the municipality where we represent you. The Duck Syndrome accurately describes us during this past year. Have you heard of the Duck Syndrome? It is a term that describes the phenomenon of appearing calm and relaxed on the surface, while frantically struggling to cope with all sorts of life's pressures underneath. The term is inspired by the image of a duck that glides smoothly on the water, but paddles (or kicks) frantically below the surface of the water, as illustrated in the picture. So it looks like the duck is moving effortlessly ... but in fact, there is so much that

is going on behind the scenes. If you only knew what was really going on down below you would be shocked (or impressed).



The duck syndrome therefore aptly describes us inside the municipality. As CE councillors, alongside our coalition partners, we try to remain calm, and like the duck, glide across the water. But truth be told, we are hectically busy – almost to a point of madness, as we try to rescue the municipality from all sorts of threats including financial and service

delivery threats. We are also very active in various community engagements. There is so much to tell and so little space here. Please check the Facebook page of the municipality which provides details for many more activities and projects. What is reported below is only a small sample of the activities we are involved in as representatives of CE.



Finances – The municipality remains in the grip of financial constraints. We inherited a bankrupt municipality in 2021 with what is called an unfunded budget. Two years later, and after cutting lots of unnecessary expenses, we are on the mend. We are not yet out of the woods, but I am confident that we can achieve a funded budget by July 2024. It's going to be a challenge though.



Governance – We are continuously revising and updating our policies and by-laws so that we are aligned with new legislation. Furthermore, I am pleased that our council meetings are now calm and productive. It was not always this way.

New blood – new top management – I am pleased to report that as of mid-November 2023, the municipality has a full top management team. This means we have a MM (Gerrit Matthyse) and three fulltime directors – Nico Smit (Finance), Riaan De Ridder (Technical), and Henry Witbooi (Support Services). We also have a growing team of new managers below these Directors.

Service Delivery – We are on our way to providing better and reliable services to our residents. The recent pothole repair project is an early indication of our potential and capability. After the damage caused by the floods, we needed to dig deep and managed to repair 7057 potholes in a record-breaking 17 days. We are also trying to urgently fix the poor quality of water, especially in Clanwilliam. We are also upgrading our sewerage plants so that we do not pump polluted and untreated water back into the environment. Our waste dumpsites are now being better maintained since the arrival of our new “yellow fleet” vehicles – one bulldozer and two TLB’s – commonly called digger loaders.



Nov 2023 – The Mayor, Dr Richards, takes delivery of new yellow fleet vehicles



Appreciation for blue-collar workers - There will be no service delivery without our blue-collar workers and all those who work behind the scenes to ensure that service delivery happens. The Mayor, Dr Richards, visited all our towns last week (11-12



Dec 2023 - Clanwilliam blue-collar workers receive certificates of appreciation, accompanied by the MM (Gerrit Matthyse) and Dr Richards in the foreground taking the selfie.

Dec) to say thank you to our workers for their good work, commitment and contribution to rebuilding our municipality to its former glory. The Municipal Manager joined and handed out certificates of appreciation to the workers.

There is a good working spirit which has been unlocked within the municipality. This can only mean good things for the future.



Mayor Ruben Richards joins pothole repairs teams in Citrusdal.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES – In addition to administrative work, Mayor Richards has also made time to engage in community-based activities. These have include participating in the vibrant Rieldans competition event, facilitating a seminar to combat gender-based violence, launching the Arrive Alive Campaign, handing our title deeds to residents and building beautiful gardens.



RIELDANS - Celebrating indigenous Khoi and San culture - Rieldans is the oldest indigenous cultural dance form in South Africa. On 9 December 2023, the annual South African Rieldans competition took place in Clanwilliam. The Executive Mayor, Dr Richards delivered the keynote speech and spent the day with various Rieldans groups celebrating the various performances of the dance groups from under 14 years old to older dance groups. At times, even the pension-age mama's could not contain themselves and they also showed some dance moves.



Dec 2023 – Cllr Dr Richards delivers keynote speech at 2023 ATKV Rieldans competition in Clanwilliam

Earlier, in September, and as part of Heritage celebrations, the Mayor delivered speeches celebrating Khoi and San history and heritage.

Arrive Alive – Road Safety campaign

– The Executive Mayor launched the annual road safety awareness campaign commonly known as ARRIVE ALIVE. This took place on 1 December on the N7 motorway which passes Clanwilliam. See the municipal facebook page for more detail.

https://fb.watch/p2_JRIan5N/

Motorists were pulled off at a stop and go roadblock, and some cars were searched. Motorists and passengers were also offered free screening for cholesterol and HIV-AIDS and also blood pressure.



Dec 2023 – Arrive Alive Campaign - Mayor Richards addressing SAPS, Municipal law Enforcement and participating NGOs at the launch of the 2023 Arrive Alive campaign alongside the N7 motorway next to Clanwilliam.



AGTERPAKHUIS CONFERENCE - *Towards the Development of Healthier Future Generations*

Dr Ruben Richards, Executive Mayor of Cederberg Municipality delivered a speech at the 2023 Conference of the National School Nutrition Programme held at Elizabethfontein Primary School, Agterpakhuis, Cederberg, Western Cape, on 19 October 2023.



EXTRACT FROM THE MAYOR'S SPEECH

Congratulations to the Western Cape Education Department and especially to you, Principal Dames, and your team here at Elizabethfontein Primary School on being selected as the school in the Western Cape Province of South Africa to host this 2023 conference of the National Schools Nutrition Program.

As the Executive Mayor and first citizen of the Cederberg, I speak on behalf of all our citizens of the Cederberg when I say that we feel proud that our little farm school here at Elizabethfontein has been etched into the history books for hosting this important conference with its focus on nutrition and good health. I



now have one more thing to boast about when I talk about our Cederberg region.

There is no doubt that the National Schools Nutrition Programme faces a daunting task given the high levels of poverty and poor nutrition among many millions of learners. It is tragic but nevertheless true, that for too many learners, the only nutritious meal of the day is the one they receive at school through this feeding scheme. I am told that the National School Nutrition Programme feeds over 9 million learners nutritious meals every day at school.

Well done to the feeding program. You are literally filling the hunger and nutritional gap in our society. We are well aware that the ability of learner to succeed is greatly improved by combatting malnutrition and reducing hunger.

In conclusion, I wish this feeding program much strength and a lot more money so that we can guarantee the development of future generations of healthy citizens. Once again welcome and also thank you for being in the Cederberg.

CE councillor Andre Mouton distributes over 350 Christmas boxes to needy families in Ward 6 - Wupperthal

Over the past couple of weeks, Andre Mouton, distributed hampers and “Christmas box gifts” to residents of the Cederberg





hidden far away in the mountains surrounding Wupperthal – in the “buite stasies”.

Andre is the Ward councillor who won the Wupperthal By-Election in February 2023 and is therefore responsible for Ward 6 - Wupperthal.

Thanks to donations received from a range of donors CE, through Andre, was able to distribute around 350 christmas boxes throughout Ward 6 including the outside mission stations of Wupperthal, and also Algeria and Paleisheuwel which all forms part of Ward 6. Ward 6 covers a massive area.

CONCLUSION - *Silence does not mean inaction*

I think you will agree that although CE appears to have been silent, it does not mean that there has been inaction. The CE councillors have been active. We are like that duck that glides effortlessly across the water but its feet are frantically paddling. Welcome to the councillors who suffer from the Duck Syndrome.

We wish you all a safe and pleasant Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Dr Ruben Richards
(Leader, Cederberg Eerste Residents Association)

For media enquiries: info@cederbergeerste.co.za