



Council approves final draft budget

The final draft budget for 2008/2009 was approved at a Special Council meeting at the end of May. A Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) will be submitted to Council within 28 days as the final step in the budget process.

In his budget address, Mayor Zakhele Mqayi noted that there had been a 106% improvement on attendance at the public participation meetings from the previous year. Likewise comments stemming from those meetings had been taken into consideration for the final draft budget.

Changes from the original draft budget include an increase in the Capital Budget of about R35 million to R559,46 million. Capital expenditure for community and social services has been reduced by about R26 million to R49,76 million but has been increased for the following: housing (R3,5 million), sports and recreation (R4 million), waste management (R14 million), road transport (R6 million), water (R11 million) and electricity (18 million) as well as finance and administration (R7 million).

Importantly the Final Draft 2008/2009 Multi-Year Capital Budget now incorporates additional amounts from several roll-over/additional projects identified by various departments from the 2007/2008 Multi-Year Capital Budget.

Mayor Mqayi explained that since the presentation of the Draft Budget at the end of March there had been an additional R104 million worth of 2007/2008 capital

projects rolled over. This amount consists of R81 million of controllable projects and R22,7 million of uncontrollable projects.

The income and expenditure budgets have each increased from R1,054 billion to R1,064 billion.

Property rates, in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, remain unchanged in the final budget. Agricultural properties can apply for a 5% rebate, pensioners for a 20% rebate, public benefit organizations and sporting bodies for a 100% rebate, subject to the provisions contained in Council's Property Rates Policy.

In addition to the statutory R15 000 reduction in the valuation on residential

properties, a further reduction of R85 000 of the valuation on all developed residential properties has been approved.

In accordance with the implementation of the universal approach of the Indigent Policy, improved residential property valued at R100 000 or less will be exempt from refuse and sewerage charges. A sliding scale will be applied for charges on improved residential properties greater than R100 000 on the following basis:

- Properties valued between R100 001 and R150 000 receive a 25% rebate in respect of sewerage and refuse charges.
- Properties valued at R150 000 and higher will pay the normal tariff.



City of uMhlatuze Mayor, Zakhele Mqayi and KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sibusiso Ndebele at the Unity of Faith function hosted by the City as part of the African Renaissance programme. See Page 12.

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City enters into Twinning Agreement

uMhlathuze Mayor, Zakhele Mnqayi and Municipal Manager, Dr Tonie Heyneke visited the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the United States in April to sign a historic Sister Cities agreement.

The twinning agreement stems from discussions between Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) and the South African Consulate in Chicago, USA with the aim of promoting KwaZulu-Natal as an investment destination for companies that are looking for opportunities.

During his address at the signing ceremony, Mayor Mnqayi said: "Today is a historic occasion for the City that will be cast in stone, forged by the strong bond being created between our two cities.

"The City of Milwaukee and the City of uMhlathuze have evolved and centred their development principles on a decade of comprehensive institutional reform and sound economic management, which has been rewarded with a solid business base; now working smarter and harder. In this relationship, we need to develop strong programmes.

"I have no doubt that we will capitalise on our major strengths; that of our world class physical and economic infrastructure, natural mineral and metal resources, a growing manufacturing sector, strong potential in tourism, high

value added manufacturing and services industries."

Included in the South African delegation to Milwaukee were seven business representatives from uMhlathuze and two from Durban. Delegates kept a busy schedule, meeting business leaders from the City's Chamber of Business and celebrating Freedom Day with the South African Consulate.

The business representatives were often taken on separate tours to businesses with similar interests with a view to forming linkages, while Mayor Mnqayi and Dr Heyneke were taken on visits of interest to government. Mayor Mnqayi said: "We were taken to meet Council and government representatives to learn about the different system of governance that they have in America. In America the mayor is not a member of Council and his office has an administrative function, much like that of our municipal manager.

"A mayor runs for office like the president and appoints commissioners, similar to our heads of department, for his term of office."

Other visits included Marquette University in Milwaukee, which currently works with Stellenbosch University.

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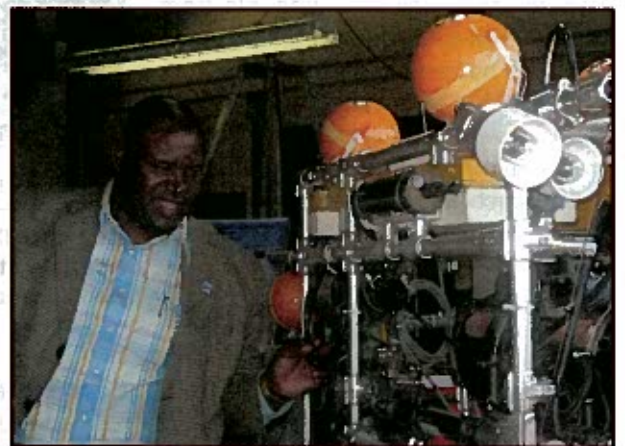
Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, Tom Barrett and uMhlathuze Mayor, Zakhele Mnqayi sign the historic Sister Cities agreement.



Mayor Mnqayi and Municipal Manager, Dr Tonie Heyneke during their visit to Organic Bio Recovery, a commercial urban agricultural enterprise that could be replicated within the City.



The South African delegation after an exciting baseball match at Miller Park.



Mayor Zakhele Mnqayi was impressed by a visit to Orion Energy Systems where robots are largely used in the manufacture of light-sensitive lighting globes. He believes this would be an ideal light industry opportunity for our City due to the national energy crisis.

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Discussions were held with a view to working with the University of Zululand for future projects. Mayor Mnyazi was impressed with Milwaukee Area Technical College, which "provides training for literally almost every skill you can think of," and has the most up-to-date equipment for training.

He was likewise impressed by a visit to Orion Energy Systems in the City of Manitowoc, about 150km from Milwaukee. The company manufactures lighting globes from aluminium making extensive use of robots. The factory has two shifts of 150 employees per shift and the lighting globes are light sensitive, automatically dimming as natural light increases so as to conserve energy. "With our current electricity crisis, this would be an ideal light industry opportunity for our City as no pollution is generated," he said.

Other visits included the Wisconsin Aquatic Technology and Environmental Research Institute, a water treatment plant, a crane manufacturer and a factory producing hi-tech equipment for the US Army. However, it was the visit to Organic Bio Recovery that sparked interest, as this commercial urban agricultural enterprise with fish farming, greenhouses and other small projects is highly sustainable and could be replicated in other countries such as South Africa.

The construction site of a new electrical generation plant being built along Lake Michigan was mind-boggling. The coal-driven plant makes use of the most advanced technology and, at a construction cost of R18-billion, will be one of the largest of its kind in the United States. Mayor Mnyazi said: "There are 25 000 people on site and they are using more steel than I have ever seen before."

Apart from a visit to a local church and school, the delegates were also treated to an outing to Miller Park in Milwaukee to watch a baseball match. "Baseball is a family sport so whole families arrive to watch the game. The atmosphere was electric, very exciting and the event management was impressive because the stadium seats about 50 000 people yet there were no queues," said Mayor Mnyazi.

The establishment of a sister city relationship between the City of uMhlathuze and the City of Milwaukee is aimed at fostering goals of friendship and goodwill for the mutual benefit of the communities by exploring educational, economic and cultural opportunities.

Programmes are to include:

- Economic development, particularly the promotion of trade and investment in the two cities.
- Sports (in light of South Africa hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup)
- Tourism and cultural promotion and exchanges, including youth and women
- Possible transfer and exchange of skills and development of government officials
- Promotion of exchanges of enterprises and non-governmental relations
- Promotion of health and education.

Cracking pace for Main Road contract

The R35 million contract to upgrade and widen Main Road in Empangeni is on track and progressing well. This is according to Aubrey Williams of CBI Consulting Engineers, who is overseeing the work by contractors, WJ Construction.

Mr Williams reports that work in President Swart Avenue is almost complete with only road markings and clearing up required. The new road markings will provide two lanes of traffic from Durnford Road to the Main Road intersection and a single lane in the opposite direction.

In the meantime earthworks are well underway between the Main Road/President Swart intersection to the Main Road/Turnbull Street intersection where retaining walls are in the process of being constructed. "The retaining walls may appear to be taking some time to complete, but the project will gain momentum again once they are finished and the contractor can start doing bulk excavation in the road itself," said Mr Williams.

Earthworks have also started in Frank Bull road, which will be widened to two lanes for part of the way, in the direction of Main Road to Dunn Road to better facilitate deliveries by heavy vehicles to the Central Park complex.

Likewise work will soon be starting on Rex Henderson Drive at Central Park, where plans make provision for a dedicated lane into the shopping complex and a dedicated lane past the complex. This is expected to improve traffic flow and alleviate bottlenecks to some degree at peak times.

Looking ahead, Mr Williams said the portion of road from Main Road/President Swart to the Main Road/Frank Bull intersection should be completed and open to traffic by the end of July. However he advised that there would only be one lane of traffic further up Main Road for the next four months, i.e. until September/October.

The project is scheduled for completion at the end of July 2009. On completion of this project the section of Main Road between MR166 and Grantham Highway will have been widened to four lanes.

Included in the project is the closure of the entrance to A-Rank from Main Road near Biyela Street. The consulting engineers are awaiting the outcome of the A-Rank development tender, which will give clarity as to the exact location of the new entrance off Fukwe Street.



Development remains a top priority

Economic Development Strategy Plan on the cards

The City of uMhlathuze is to appoint a specialist consultant to draft the terms of reference for an Implementation Plan for the Spatial Development, which is to include an Economic Development Strategy Plan, to replace the old five-year development plan.

The Economic Development Strategy Plan is seen by Council as a necessary tool to promote the Municipality's fiscal health into the future. As such it will look to prioritise developments and identify ways to encourage economic growth within the environmental constraints of the City.

The Department of Planning and Sustainable Development would like to see the Plan incorporating the "smart growth principles" employed in the United States of America, whereby the Economic Development Strategy Plan is closely linked to spatial planning.

Huge interest in Marina and Waterfront development

A tender calling for a Marketing Specialist for the proposed Richards Bay Marina and Waterfront development closes towards the end of July 2008 and is creating a great deal of interest.

According to a spokesperson from the Department of Planning and Sustainable Development enquiries have been received from numerous construction companies and other suppliers keen to be involved in the development.

Once appointed the Marketing Specialist will be required to work with the Department of Planning and Sustainable Development to prepare a tender calling for development proposals as well as market the tender to interested bidders internationally and locally. Importantly, the Marketing Specialist will be exempt from applying for the main tender.

In the meantime Council is seeking a legal opinion to resolve land legal issues relating to the surveyed and un-surveyed portions of Pelican Island with a view to determining the future development possibilities of the land.

Rural development nodes

Council has adopted concept settlement plans for the eSikhaleni and Port Durnford rural development nodes and recommended that the Traditional Leadership Liaison Forum now establishes protocol and procedures for land use planning and land tenure arrangements with key role players.

Protocol is necessary between Council, the Traditional Leadership, the Ingonyama Trust Board and the Department of Traditional Affairs. Likewise consensus needs to be reached by all role-players on the spatial allocation of land uses and its ongoing management before any further concept settlement plans can be prepared for other rural nodes.

The eSikhaleni rural node is in the Dube Traditional Authority and consists of Dube Village, Gobandlovu, Mandlankala and Mkhobosa while the Port Durnford rural node is located within the Mkhwanazi Traditional Authority.

Land use management is required in the rural areas in conjunction with land tenure allocations to promote economic development, and to ensure environmentally responsible and safe development. The issue of settlements in service corridors, floodplains and land uses in environmentally sensitive areas also needs to be addressed.

Uyaqhubeka Umsebenzi Wendawo Yamathuna eSikhaleni

Umsebenzi wokwakha Indawo yamaThuna aseSikhaleni unikwe abakwa WJ. Construction ngesamba sama R10 ezigidi kanti kulindeleke ukuba uthathe izinyanga ezinhlanu ukuphela.

Kuzoba yisigaba sokuqala samaThuna aseSikhaleni kanti sizoba ngamahekthari ayi 12 sesisonke. Umsebenzi usuqalile kanti ubandakanya ukususwa kwenhlabathi nezihlahla nokugqisha, ukwakhiwa komgwaqo wokungena nowangaphakathi, indawo yokufaka amanzi, izindlu zangasese nendawo yokubeka impahla, ukubiywa ngocingo nokutshala utshani.

Lendawo yamathuna izoba sendaweni ebizwa ngokuthi "Portion 2 of Farm no. 16832 – GU Richards Bay" kanti iseNyakatho-Ntshonalanga yomzila waseSikhaleni / Vulindlela emgwaqeni MR 535 oya eVulindlela. Indawo Isiyonke ingamahekthari angama 30,9 kanti ngaphambili yayisetshenziselwa amahlathi.

UMqondisi wezamaPaki, ezemiDlalo nezokuziThokozisa, uMnuz u-Ernst van Biljon wathi isigaba sokuqala siyomumatha angama 12 000 kanti siyofeza isidingo esikhulu saleyandawo. "Okwamanje abantu abahlala eSikhaleni namaphethelo kudingeka basebenzise Indawo yamaThuna yase Richards Bay noma eYesifunda esEmpangeni. Nokho uma amaThuna aseSikhaleni esesebenza, kulindeleke ukuba kusizakale izakhamizi zalendawo ikakhulukazi uma zivakashela amathuna ezihlobo ngezimpelasonto, lapho ezokuthutha ziba yinkinga", kuqhuba yena uMqondisi.

E: *The contract for the construction of the eSikhaleni Cemetery has been awarded to WJ Construction in the amount of R10 million and is scheduled to take five months to complete.*

Stad stel kontrakteur aan vir opgradering van begraafplaas

Die kontrak ter waarde van R3,4 miljoen vir die vergroting en opknapping van geriewe by die Richardsbaaise begraafplaas is aan Zamimpilo Maintenance Projects toegeken. Hulle het tydens Mei met die projek begin

Die begraafplaas grens aan Hoofpad 231 en die werk sluit die verbetering van die perseel deur middle van die opgradering van die bestaande 500m grondpad tot 'n teerpad asook die bou van 'n nuwe sement geplaveide interne paaie van sowat 600m lank.

Bestaande geplaveide paaie moet ook opgradeer word en stormwaterslote moet opgeknop word.

Die projek is geskeduleer om teen die middle van Augustus hierdie jaar voltooi te wees.

E: *Zamimpilo Maintenance Projects has been awarded the R3,4 million contract to extend the Richards Bay Cemetery and upgrade amenities. They moved onto site in May and should be finished by mid-August.*

Voter registration re-opens at Municipality

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has started voter registration in the City of uMhlathuze in preparation for next year's national and provincial elections. It will continue with the process until the proclamation date is announced next year.

To make the voter registration easier and more accessible to residents, uMhlathuze Municipality has trained several of its staff in order to provide this service, at venues across the City. Voters may register at the local IEC offices on the third floor of the Richards Bay Civic Centre in Richards Bay, weekdays from 07:30 to 16:00 or at the nearest municipal library.

Participating libraries will be open for voter registration at the following times:

Richards BayWeekdays, 09:00 to 17:00
EmpangeniWeekdays, 09:00 to 17:00
BrackenhamWeekdays, 09:00 to 12:00
NgwelezaneWeekdays, 09:00 to 17:00
eSikhaleniWeekdays, 09:00 to 17:00
eNseleniWeekdays, 09:00 to 17:00
FelixtonWill be opened officially after July 2008

In addition, the IEC has identified two weekends, one in November 2008 and another in February 2009, during which all voting stations will be opened on Saturday and Sunday for a major voter registration drive. Watch the media closer to the time for further details.

Registering as a voter in the uMhlathuze Municipality is important for several reasons:

- It enables you to vote in the national, provincial and local Government elections.
- It assists the Municipality to determine more accurately its population when applying for grants from Government.
- Councillors are able to use the voters' roll to confirm residency of those people who ask councillors for letters confirming that they reside in the City for various purposes, i.e. applying for social welfare grants, booking of learner's licence tests and when opening a bank account or other account.

For more information about voter registration please contact Makhosi on 035-907 5416.

Ukubhaliswa KwabaVoti Sekuvuliwe Futhi KwaMasipala

IKhomishana eZimele yoKhetho isiqale ukubhaliswa kwabavoti eDolobheni lase-Mhlathuze ukulungisela ukhetho lukaZwelonke nolwesiFundazwe ngonyaka ozayo. Izoqhubeka ibhalisa kuze kumenyezwe ngokomthetho usuku ngonyaka ozayo.

Ukuze kwenziwe lula ukubhaliswa nokusondezela izakhamuzi, uMasipala waseMhlathuze uqeqeshe abanye abasebenzi bawo ukuze benze lomsebenzi ezindaweni ezahlukene zeDolobha. Abavoti bangabhalisa ehovisi lendawo leKhomishana eZimele yoKhetho (I.E.C.) elisesakhiweni sezinga lesithathu ukuphakama (3rd floor) emahhovisi akwaMasipala eRichards Bay phakathi neviki kusukela ngo 7:30 kuya ku 16:00 noma esikhungweni sikaMasipala somtapo wezincwadi esiseduze.

Izikhungo zemitapo yezincwadi zizobe zivulele ukubhalisa abavoti ngalezizikhathi ezilandelayo.

Richards BayPhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 17:00
EmpangeniPhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 17:00
BrackenhamPhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 12:00
NgwelezanePhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 17:00
eSikhaleniPhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 17:00
eNseleniPhakathi neviki, ngo 09:00 kuya ku 17:00
FelixtonKuzovulwa ngokomthetho emva kuka July 2008.

Ngaphezu kwalokho i-I.E.C. ihlele izimpelasonto ezimbili eyodwa ngoNovember 2008 nenye ngo February 2009 lapho zonke iziteshi zokuvota ziyovulwa ngoMgqibelo nageSonto ukuba abavoti babhalise ngobuningi babo. Bheka amaphephandaba uma sekusondela lesosikhathi ukuze uthole imininingwane.

Ukubhalisa njengomvoti kuMasipala waseMhlathuze kunezizathu eziningana:

- Kukunika lithuba lokuba uvote okhethweni lukaZwelonke, lwesiFundazwe neloHulumeni wasekhaya.
- Kusiza uMasipala ukuba aqonde kahle isibalo somphakathi ongaphansi kwawo uma enza isicelo zoxhaso lwezinsizakalo kuHulumeni.
- AmaKhansela ayakwazi ukusebenzisa usomqulu wabavoti ukunika isiqiniseko sendawo yokuhlala yalabo abasuke becala izincwadi zesiqiniseko ngendawo yokuhlala eDolobheni kumaKhansela ngezizathu ezithile njengokufaka isicelo sokuthola usizo lwezimali kwabezenhlalakahle, uma ufuna izincwadi zokushayela noma ufuna ukuvula isilondoloza-mali ebhange noma okunye. Uma udinga olunye ulwazi ngokubhaliselela ukuvota ucelwa uthintane noMakhosi kunomboho yocingo engu 035 907 5416

Plans in place for State of the City Address

uMhlathuze Mayor Zakhele Mngayi will host the 2008 State of the City Address at the Veldenvlei Sports Complex in Richards Bay at midday on Friday, 27 June 2008.

The State of the City Address will be a feedback session by the Mayor on the City's achievements during the year with the emphasis on the budget reflecting the development direction and projects anticipated for the forthcoming year.

Selubekiwe Usuku lweNkulumo yeSimo seDolobha

IMeya yoMhlathuze uZakhele Mngayi uzobungaza iNkulumo yeSimo seDolobha ezinkundleni zemiDlalo eVeldenvlei eRichards Bay emini ngoLwesihlanu lomhlaka 27 June 2008.

INkulumo yeSimo seDolobha izobe iyinkulumo lapha iMeya izobika ngokufezwe yiDolobha kulonyaka ikakhulukazi ukugcizelela ngeSabelo-mali esikhombisa intuthuko nemisebenzi elindelwe ngonyaka ozayo.

The best laid plans...

What happens to building plans once they are submitted to the Municipality? And why does approval sometimes take so long? uMhlathuze News finds out how residents and investors can ensure a smooth approval process.

In terms of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act 103 of 1977 every landowner has to submit to their local municipality building plans for the construction of all buildings and structures such as lean-to carports, swimming pools, lapas, garages and extensions to their home.

According to uMhlathuze's Building Control Officer, Ockie Brand, the only structures exempt from the Act are pergolas, wire fences and those buildings erected by or on behalf of the State if the Ministers of Justice, Law and Order and Defence are of the opinion that the building is in the interest of, or connected to the safety of the State.

In the case of the uMhlathuze Municipality building plans for properties in Richards Bay, eSikhaleni, eNseleni and Vulindlela must be submitted to the Building Inspector's counter in the Department of Planning and Sustainable Development on the Third Floor of the Richards Bay Civic Centre. Plans for Empangeni and Ngwelezane are to be delivered to the Department's offices on the first floor of the Empangeni Civic Centre.

In terms of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, the Municipality has 30 days in which to approve or reject building plans for buildings less than 500 square metres.

This is extended to 60 days for buildings of 500 square metres or more.

This time period is necessary for the municipal Building Inspectorate to circulate the plans to other municipal departments whose input is required before the plans can be passed. This is particularly the case with plans for habitable rooms, such as extensions to homes, or plans for industrial buildings and shopping centres.

For example, the Community Services and Health Department will consider aspects such as sanitation, ablution facilities, natural lighting and refuse areas. Similarly, in the case of industrial buildings and shopping centres, the Fire Department is required to assess the plans to ensure there are sprinkler systems, fire detection systems, fire extinguishers and smoke ventilation. Other departments that are asked for comment include those of the City Engineer, Sustainable Development and Planning, City Electrical Engineer as well as the Community Services and Parks departments.

What can cause delays?

Delays in the process are sometimes caused when the Department of Planning and Sustainable Development is relying on the availability of other departments to give their comments on the plans, as this is not the core function of these departments.

Incomplete information on the plans can also cause delays, for example if an architect or draughtsperson is not aware of the submission requirements of the uMhlathuze Municipality.

Rezoning and amendments to title deeds can also take months to process. Mr Brand said landowners should be aware that some title deeds have restrictive clauses preventing the owner to build a second dwelling unit or granny flat on the site. This clause was included in the title deed of certain of the older suburbs of the City at the time when the properties were registered, and needs to be lifted before plans for an additional dwelling unit may be considered.

How can the approval process be 'fast tracked'?

Making use of a knowledgeable draughtsperson or architect to draw up the plans can fasttrack the approval process as these people know what is required in a plan. They are also aware of the instances where the approval of the neighbours is needed and sometimes take control of this process on behalf of their client.

In the case of large buildings it is advised that the architect or draughtsperson consult with the City planners, engineers and fire department before submitting plans so that some of the concerns can be ironed out beforehand.

When is rezoning required?

If the use of a property is going to change to a use type, which is not permitted in terms of the present zoning of an erf, a rezoning application must be submitted. An example is if the owner of a "Special Residential" zoned property wants to turn the property into a business, other than a Home Industry, to accommodate a use such as Professional Chambers.

When is a neighbour's consent needed?

The building lines and side and rear spaces applicable to "Special Residential 1" zoned properties may vary according to the size of these properties. The normal building line on the street boundary, is 5,0m, while the side and rear spaces are normally 2,0m, for a single storey building.

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The path of plans

- The landowner appoints an architect or draughtsman to prepare the plans.
- Plans are presented to the Building Inspectorate who determine the submission fee.
- Plan fees are paid at the banking halls and the receipt, together with the drawings and application is submitted to the Building Inspectorate so that the plans can be recorded in the municipal building plans register.
- The plans are allocated to a Building Inspector for a pre-site inspection. This inspection seeks to identify any illegal structures or any reason why the building cannot be erected.
- The plan examiner circulates the plans to the other departments whose comments are required.
- The comments are sent back to the Plan Examiner who then scrutinises the plans in terms of the National Building Regulations Act.
- The plans and comments are sent back to the architect or draughtsperson for corrections – if any.
- Once the plans have been revised to comply with the recommendations of the departments the plans are then resubmitted – without any additional fee, and are signed off.

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Applications for relaxation of side and rear spaces are only entertained if one side space remains 2,0m wide for the possible installation of municipal services and/or emergency access to the rear of properties. While a relaxation may be considered up to 0,0m on the other boundary, subject to approval by the adjacent property owner (in the event of the proposed building to be constructed closer than 1,0 m from the boundary).

All "Special Residential 1" erven are allowed to have double storey buildings, as long as the total floor area of the buildings remain within the total floor area restrictions. Should the landowner plan to construct a double storey building, the side and rear spaces need to be 3,0m. It is not necessary to obtain the approval of a neighbour for the construction of a double storey house, if the proposed house has been designed within the applicable parameters.

Having to first approve the relaxation of a building line can delay the plan approval process, because building plans depicting proposed buildings closer than the prescribed building lines and side and rear spaces will not be considered, unless the relaxation procedures, including the inputs from the neighbouring land owners have been obtained.

When is Council's consent necessary?

The Town Planning Schemes which apply in Richards Bay and Empangeni allow the owners of properties to apply for Council's special consent to utilise the properties for secondary uses and building plans for such uses may not be considered prior to the special consent procedures having been completed. Land owners of properties who are therefore under the impression that their building plans are delayed unnecessarily in such instances, should understand that the staff involved do not have the authority to consider a plan depicting alterations which would accommodate a land use for which prior special consent needs to be applied.

Did you know?

Any person erecting any building without an approved plan shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R100 for each day on which he was engaged in erecting such building.

Any illegal structures on a property need to first be legalised before the Municipality can approve any other plans submitted for the same property. For example if the previous landowner built a lapa without the necessary approval and the new owner then submitted plans for a double garage can be considered, plans for the lapa would first need to be approved before the double garage could be considered.

For more information about the submission and approval of building plans contact the Building Inspectorate on 035-9015409/10 for Richards Bay and 035-9075619 for Empangeni.

Usukhishiwe Umsebenzi Wokwakha Indawo Yokubhukuda YaseNgwelezane

Abakwa Hlanganisani Construction baqhubeka kahle ngomsebenzi wama R6 ezigidi ukwakha Indawo yokubhukuda eNgwelezane kanti kusabahambela kahle ukuqeda lomsebenzi ekupheleni kuka July.

Lomsebenzi ubandakanya ukwakhiwa kwendawo yokubhukuda engama 25m x 12,5m kanye neyazingane engama 10m x 5m nezakhiwo ezihambisana nalomsebenzi eziyihhovisi lamathikithi, indlu yokushintshela, indlu yomqaphi, izindlu zangasese nendlu yokumpompa amanzi. Indawo yokubhukuda izobiyelwa ngobonda losimende oluwu 2m ubude, oluzoba yingxenywe yalomsebenzi kanye nezindawo zokupaka.

Ngokomkhulumeli wabakwaNdawonye Networks, ouyibona abangonjiniyela abangochwephesheababhekele lomsebenzi, osekusele nje ukuba lendawo ifakwe igunite kanye namathayili kanye nokufakelwa izisefo.

Ngenkathi yokubhala ngalomsebenzi, izakhiwo bese ziku 80% ukuphela kanti ukugandaywa nokwenziwa kwendawo yokupaka bekuqhubeka kahle.

E: *Hlanganisani Construction is progressing well with its R6 million contract to construct a swimming pool in Ngwelezane and is on track to complete all work by the end of July 2008.*



Kuqhutshekwa Nokwenzangcono Inkundla Yezemidlalo Yendawo YaseNgwelezane

Abakwa-Impact Plus Trading 392 cc banikwe ithenda lama R1,6 ezigidi ukwakha isigaba 2 somsebenzi wokwenza ngcono iKundla yeZemidlalo Yendawo yaseNgwelezane.

Umsebenzi uzobandakanya ukwakhiwa kwezindlu zokushintshela kanye nezindlu zangasese, indawo yokuhlala eyakhiwe ngokhonkolo kanye nethange lokugcina amanzi.

Osonkontileka bawuqale ekuqaleni kwalenyanga umsebenzi kanti kulindelele ukuba uthathe izinyanga eziyisithupha ukuwuqeda.

E: *Impact Plus Trading 392cc has been awarded the R1,6 million tender to construct Phase 2 of the Ngwelezane Regional Sport Facility upgrade.*

NSRI invests in state-of-the-art base for City

The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) officially opened its R11,6 million state-of-the-art rescue base in Richards Bay at the end of May, where Council was acknowledged and thanked for providing the land for the development.

The building, which has been heralded as “the finest rescue base in South Africa”, will be used as a control room during times of emergencies, a training facility and a home-from-home for Sea Rescue crew members and their families. Most importantly it will also provide a much-needed shelter for the R22 million-rescue fleet and assets, thereby increasing their life expectancy and reducing maintenance costs.

Long standing crew member, Mike Patterson gave guests at the grand opening a brief history of Station 19, which was established in 1976 and initially operated from a boat shed donated by the RB6 Consortium who were building the harbour at the time.

Towards the end of 1980 the crew moved into a new home, which they had built within the Zululand Yacht Club grounds for less than R12 000 using materials donated by local business. This served as their base for 28 years until the move to the new building alongside the Yacht Club.

Sea Rescue Chief Executive Officer, Ian Wienburg said that the support of local business has proved instrumental in raising funds for the new facility. Donations were received from, among others, BHP Billiton (R2 million), RBCT (R550 000), nDawonye (R319 000), Grinrod (R250 000), RBM (R250 000), Xstrata (R200 000), Bell Equipment (R80 000), Transnet (R87 000), Theunissen Jankowitz Architects (R61 000), Hiemstra and de Villiers Quantity Surveyors (R51 000) and the Zululand Deep Sea Angling Association (R50 000). Additional funding was received from the Doug Pheasant and Logan bequests and R500 000 from the National Lotto.



At the official opening of the new Station 19 Sea Rescue base in Richards Bay were uMhlatuze Executive Committee members, Cllr John Harvey, Cllr Louls van Zyl and Aid Denny Moffatt who were thanked for the role they played in securing the land for the development. With them is Mike Patterson (second from right), a long serving NSRI volunteer.

Did you know?

Since the Richards Bay Sea Rescue base opened in 1976 its volunteer crews have:

- Engaged in 557 operations
- Saved 126 lives
- Assisted 1 898 people
- Towed-in 374 vessels; and
- Assisted 155 other craft.



BHP Billiton Bayside Smelter General Manager, Lucas Msimanga hands over the keys of the new base to Station 19 Commander, Mark Hughes.



The state-of-the-art NSRI base in Richards Bay has all the bells and whistles including an automated system of launching the Spirit of Richards Bay rescue boat.

City to conduct its own census

A door-to-door census is to be conducted in rural areas of the City of uMhlathuze later this year in order to more accurately assess the demand for water and sanitation services in these areas.

The census, which is estimated to cost R5 million, will be done in collaboration with and jointly funded by the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Meanwhile the latest figures available are those recently released after a mini census for local government in 2007, conducted by Statistics South Africa. According to the figures uMhlathuze Municipality has moved from 21st to 20th position in terms of population size. The City's population was estimated at 289 190 in 2001 and had increased to 332 156 by 2007. As such the Municipality is placed 14th among all the municipalities

in terms of percentage population growth, which has been pegged at 14,8%.

Similarly uMhlathuze Municipality has been placed 20th among all municipalities in terms of budget size for the 2006/2007 financial year.

This comparison is a good indication of the economic growth potential of an area and in terms of this information uMhlathuze remains one of the largest local municipalities outside of the metropolitan councils.

However, these figures show that the Municipality still falls far short of a category 5 municipality, whose qualifying requirements are a budget of R1,5 billion (the Municipality's latest income figures were R651,9 million) and a population of 550 000.

The next national census is scheduled to take place during 2011.

NOTICE

OF CHANGE IN TELEPHONE NUMBER After Hours Emergency Prepaid Electricity Telephone Service

NEW NUMBER: 035-907 5767

Residents should take note of the change in number for the After Hours Emergency Prepaid Electricity Service offered by Council. As from 1 July 2008 the telephone number: 035 - 797 5757 will no longer be in use.

The service hours for purchasing of emergency prepaid electricity, via the new telephone number 035-907 5767 are:

Week Days: 17:00 to 23:00
Weekends / Public Holidays: 12:30 to 18:30

The service is limited to the purchase of a R15.00 token, the numbers of which are then provided over the telephone.

Residents are then required to pay the R15.00 prior to any subsequent purchases of electricity. As from 1 July 2008 Council will levy an additional service fee of R1.00 per transaction, excluding VAT. Residents should note that the facility should ONLY be used as an emergency measure and NOT as a credit facility.

Over and above the facility to purchase prepaid electricity from any of Council's offices during normal office hours, the City of uMhlathuze also provides the following additional after hours options:

- third party vendors • selected 24 hour garages • online via the Internet • via cell phone. Log onto Council's Website www.richemp.org.za for more details.



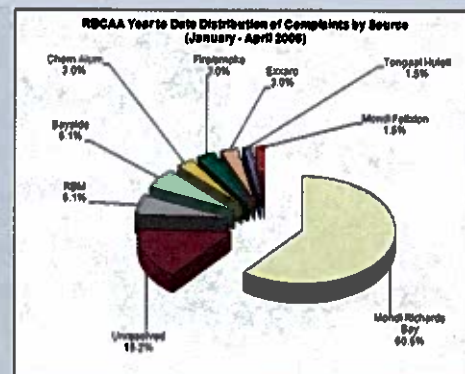
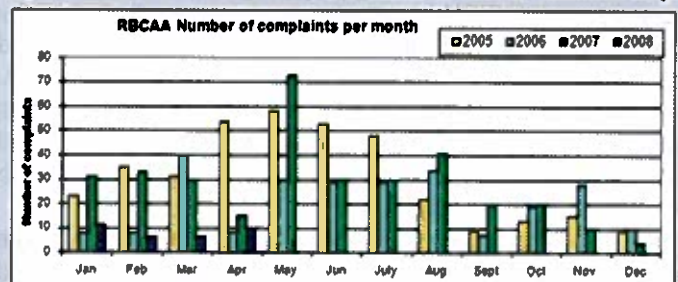
Richards Bay Clean Air Association: April 08

SO₂ guideline exceedances

There were no measured exceedances of the DEAT standards or SANS limit values during the reporting period. The fact that there were no measured exceedances does not mean that there were no exceedances. The Hawk Model is used to produce concentration maps which predict SO₂ concentrations in areas where no monitoring equipment exists. The concentration maps (as shown below) are therefore important as they show areas that may have experienced exceedances.

Air Quality Complaints

A total of 10 air quality complaints were received for the month of April 2008. Of these 6 were attributed to Mondi Richards Bay.



For more information contact:
Sandy Camminga (Public Officer)

Tel: 035 -786 0076 • Cell: 083 515 2384 • E-mail: info@rbcaa.co.za
Complaints can be logged at: complaints@rbcaa.co.za
Website: www.rbcaa.co.za

Environmental Watchdog

ORGANIC GARDENING IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Organic gardening is an environmentally friendly way of using organic materials to build healthy soils and productive gardens while avoiding the use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or fungicides.

All successful gardeners will know that fruitful gardens begin with good soil preparation. The addition of organic matter to our garden soils has a positive effect on our gardens by acting like a natural sponge, increasing the soil's ability to hold nutrients and retain water. It also provides a food source to the soil's populations of micro-organisms and other soil dwellers like earthworms, which are essential for a healthy well-balanced soil.

On the other hand chemical fertilisers will have both long and short-term negative effects in our gardens. For example these chemicals are often lost into our ground water and contaminate it before they can be fully absorbed by our plants. They also poison the beneficial soil life in the same way that toilet-cleaning chemicals can cause havoc to the bacteria in our septic tanks.

So what are the major ingredients of successful organic gardening? The answer is compost and mulch.

Compost is a nutrient rich soil made out of things that used to be alive. They are eaten and broken down by the many soil micro- and macro-organisms. Mulch is any organic matter from bark and leaves to stones that is placed on top of the soil to protect it from drying out. Later it will provide organic matter to the soil as it breaks down - similar to what you will see on any forest floor. Birds will be attracted to well-composted and mulched garden areas where they will find worms and insects to eat.

Organic materials are commercially available. But gardeners can make use of materials that accumulate in their gardens and kitchens to make their own compost and mulch, which will also save valuable landfill space.

The recipe for making your own organic compost is the right combination of carbon (C) found in dry leaves and grass and



Manure from these pet pigs adds vital nutrients to the author's compost heap.

nitrogen (N) found in animal manures and kitchen waste. Another essential ingredient for successful composting is oxygen.

Without sufficient oxygen the decomposition process will become anaerobic and produce undesirable odours. Therefore turning your compost from time to time and keeping it moist will speed up the process. The time it takes for your compost to be ready depends on whether you have added the right amount of ingredients (C:N ratio of about 30:1) and the time of year, ranging from 3-4 weeks in summer to 6-8 weeks in winter. Finished compost is dark brown, crumbly, and is earthy-smelling.

What about pests, you may ask? Well there are organic alternatives to pesticides and fungicides. However, when plants are healthy they become more resistant to attack. Ideally choosing indigenous plants will solve most of your pest problems as insect attack is known to stimulate growth in many indigenous plants, while providing you with a wide variety of butterflies and other interesting visitors to your garden.

So do your bit for the environment by avoiding the use of chemical products in your gardens and by recycling your garden and kitchen waste!

Environmental Watchdog articles are written by members of the Mtunzini Conservancy

City to install remote water reading and logging devices

DPI-Ichweba has been awarded a R1.9 million contract to install remote water reading and logging devices at various bulk meters in the City of uMhlatuze.

Currently bulk meters are being manually read, but due to the vastness of the Municipal area, only critical meters are read daily. Other meters are read twice monthly and some monthly. Electronic reading devices are capable of reading flows and pressures at 15-minute intervals and will, therefore, provide the City Engineer's Department with valuable information, which is not available at present.

The contract includes the installation of flow and pressure data loggers with GSM capabilities at various bulk meters, which further includes the setting up of communications to Council's telemetry system where flow logging can be viewed.

By continuously measuring bulk water consumption the Municipality will be able to accurately monitor consumption in its areas by comparing consumptions with other bulk meters in the same system, individual domestic, commercial and industrial usage. This will enable the City Engineer's Department to pinpoint problem areas.

Eisteddfod kuns word vertoon in Museum

Die beste hoërskool kunswerke is tans te sien in die Empangeni Museum as deel van die tweejaarlikse Mondl Eisteddfod. Lede van die publiek wie belangstel om na die kunswerke te gaan kyk kan van die geleentheid gebruik maak tot die einde Julie. Daarna sal die uitstalling vervang word met kunswerke vanaf plaalike Primêre skole wat ook aan die Eisteddfod deelneem.

E: *The best of local high school art is currently on display at the Empangeni Museum as part of the bi-annual Mondl Eisteddfod.*

Die algehele wenner van die Hoërskool kategorie van die Mondl Eisteddfod is Kelvin Kelly of Grantleigh met sy kunswerk getiteld "New Life".



Hoërskole wat deelneem aan hierdie jaar se Mondl Eisteddfod sluit In St Catherine's, Grantleigh, Felixton College, Empangeni Hoërskool, Richardsbaai Hoërskool, Bethesda High in Richardsbaai and private studente vanaf 'n Richardsbaaise kunsklub.

Dates to diarise

JUNE

- 19 June Monthly meeting of Zululand Chamber of Business Empangeni Division at 12:45 at the Empangeni Bowling Club. Contact 035-7971858.
- 24 June uMhlathuze Executive Committee meeting at 14:00 in Council Chambers, Richards Bay Civic Centre.
- 25 June Richards Bay WI monthly meeting at 09:00 at the Richards Bay Library Hall. Contact Diane on 035-7891682.
- 27 June Free rabies clinic at the Veldenvlei Hall in Richards Bay from 08:00 to 14:00.

JULY

- 2 July Mzingazi WI meets at 17:00 at the Richards Bay Library Hall. Contact Pat on 0833013515.
- 2 July Cancer Support Group meets at 18:30 at the Bay Hospital Boardroom. Contact Theresa on 035-7806123 or Zonke on 035-7892472
- 3 July Richard Bay Floral Art Club meets at 14:00 in the Richards Bay Library Hall. Contact Bev on 0824525744.
- 8 July uMhlathuze Executive Committee meeting at 14:00 in Council Chambers, Richards Bay Civic Centre.
- 8 July uMhlathuze Council meeting at 17:00 in Council Chambers, Richards Bay Civic Centre.
- 8 July Monthly meeting of the Richards Bay division of the Zululand Chamber of Business at 12:45 at the Pelican Hall, ZCBF. Contact 035-7971858.
- 9 July Interdenominational Prayer Meeting at the SAPS Empangeni inner garden from 07:45 to 08:15. Contact Janine Stone on 035-7725083.
- 14 July Empangeni WI monthly meeting at Leisure Gardens at 14:30. Contact Shelly King on 035-7924939 or 0839896278
- 17 July Monthly meeting of Zululand Chamber of Business Empangeni Division at 12:45 at the Empangeni Bowling Club. Contact 035-7971858.
- 22 July uMhlathuze Executive Committee meeting at 14:00 in Council Chambers, Richards Bay Civic Centre.
- 23 July Richards Bay WI monthly meeting at 09:00 at the Richards Bay Library Hall. Contact Diane on 035-7891682.
- 25 July Free rabies clinic at the Veldenvlei Hall in Richards Bay from 08:00 to 14:00.

Buzz Hours for the Business Women's Association are held every Thursday at 10:00 at the Empangeni Country Club and every Tuesday at 10:00 at Myra's Kitchen, Richards Bay. Contact Sunette on 035-7973498.

Talking about Drugs, a support group for rehabilitated drug users, meets in Brackenham at Bay Primary School on Fridays from 19:00 to 20:00 and at Arboretum at the AGS Church on Saturdays from 19:00 to 20:00. Contact Ps Christo on 0836458772 or Matthew on 0744384980.

To advertise your event in uMhlathuze News and on the Municipality's website www.richemp.org, contact Mandy Nel on 035 907 5403.

City joins African Renaissance celebrations

The City of uMhlathuze hosted a "Unity of Faith" function in front of the Richards Bay Civic Centre on Sunday, 25 May as part of the provincial African Renaissance Programme in celebration of Africa Day.

The African Renaissance movement's mission is to contribute to the reaffirmation, the rebirth, the reconstruction and the redevelopment of the African continent by aligning the social, environmental and economic resources for the benefit of all Africans. Based on these ideals, a number of initiatives have been developed and today are co-ordinated by the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Renaissance of Southern Africa, the South African Chapter of African Renaissance and its provincial forums.

Guest speaker at the function, Dr Mpilo Pearl Sithole spoke on Dynamic Faiths: Leaders confronting challenges towards achieving spiritual and social welfare in a democracy. She outlined four challenges for Faiths to contemplate: fundamentalism of faiths; reflecting on ideas of equality, rights and social welfare – especially in terms of gender and age; confronting the tendency of making scientific religion out of a secular guide – the constitution and laws of the country; and confronting short-term and long-term needs for emancipation of Africa from poverty and dependence.

Also attending the gathering were delegates from the United States of America: Mrs Chleo Orange, religious leaders from different faiths and denominations, Ishwar Ramlutchman (Divine Life Ministries), Reverend Alpheus Mauzini Ndebele, Bishop Dr Matthew Makhaye, Rev Themba Vundla, City of uMhlathuze Mayor Zakhele Mnqayi, City councillors and representatives from communities in the greater Zululand area.



A large crowd of delegates attended the Unity of Faith function hosted by the City of uMhlathuze as part of the African Renaissance programme.

Important uMhlathuze Municipality telephone numbers

In case of uncertainty, the main switchboard in Richards Bay can be reached by dialling 035-9075000

- **Building Inspectorate**
Office hours:035 907 5434
.....035 907 5409
.....035 907 5410
- **Water Leaks & Sewer Leaks**
Office hours:035 907 5454
.....035 907 5244
.....035 907 5212
After hours:.....035 797 3313/4/5
- **Roads & Storm Wafer**
Office hours:035 907 5208
- **Refuse Removal**
Office hours:035 907 5789
.....035 907 5790
- **Housing**
Office hours:035 907 5402
.....035 907 5335
- **Power Failure and Streetlight Complaints**
Office hours:035 907 5352
.....035 907 5354
After hours:.....035 797 3313/4/5
Electricity Complaints: ...035 907 5371/5385/5346
- **Electricity Pre-payment Purchases**
After Hours:035 907 5767
(Mon to Fri 5pm to 11pm and Sat, Sun and public holidays 12.30pm to 6.30pm)
- **Tourism**
Office hours:035 907 5018
Empangeni info/
Greyhound Agency.....035 792 1283
- **Waste Management**
Office hours (Emp):035 907 5670
.....035 907 5671
Office hours (R/Bay):035 907 5789
.....035 907 5790
- **Traffic**
R/Bay Motor Licencing035 907 5268/5461
Emp Motor Licencing.....035 907 5650/5652
Drivers Licences035 787 1464
Traffic Section.....035 907 5633
Control Room035 772 5503
Learners Licences.....035 907 5030
- **Fire**
Office hours035 797 3314
All hours035 797 3911
.....035 797 4411
Emergency.....083 661 9911

uMhlathuze News - Also on: www.richemp.org.za

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