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24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

OVERSTRAND RANKS SEVENTH AMONGST SA'S TOP-TEN MUNICIPALITIES

The recently updated Government Performance Index indicates that nine out of South Africa's top-ten municipalities are located in the Western Cape, with Swellendam coming out tops and Overstrand ranking seventh.

This index ranks all of South Africa's 234 local and metropolitan municipalities according to 15 different criteria, with service delivery being most heavily weighted. The latter encompasses eight indicators including piped water, electricity, sanitation, regular refuse removal, formal housing, health facilities, police coverage and access to quality education.

Furthermore, a municipality's capacity, financial soundness and compliance are also included in the ranking, as were economic development indicators such as poverty, income, work opportunities and the area's unemployment rate.

Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said Overstrand's achievement can undoubtedly be ascribed to an unwavering commitment by employees and management alike to ensure optimal delivery, which boils down to everyone doing his or her best to make sure municipal services and programmes are maintained. Likewise, she added, had it not been for the support and guidance so generously offered by the Western Cape Provincial Government, none of this would have been possible.

"We are, however, mindful that certain areas require immediate attention if we are to retain our ranking in future," Botha-Guthrie said. According to the Executive Mayor, those areas relate in particular to the rise in the unemployment rate, as well as the alarming increase in the number of pupils who drop out from school before completing Grade 12.

"As a municipality we will constantly strive to improve the levels of service to our communities, to create an economic climate that attracts investment and to establish platforms that can create viable jobs," the Executive Mayor said.

For a quick overview of the most recently published Government Performance Index, visit <http://city-press.news24.com/News/here-are-the-best-and-worst-municipalities-20160228>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY REGARDING OVERSTRAND'S PROPOSED OVERLAY ZONES

Notice is hereby given that Council has initiated a process to include area-specific overlay zones within its integrated zoning scheme.

Details regarding this proposal are available for public scrutiny at all municipal offices and public libraries in the Overstrand area as well on the municipality's official website.

Note, too, that Council intends to conduct several public engagement sessions in the course of April to discuss the intended inclusion of overlay zones.

Watch the local press and Overstrand's official website for details on the dates, times and venues of these engagements.

Meanwhile, any enquiries in this regard can be directed to URBAN DYNAMICS WESTERN CAPE (PTY) LTD, PO Box 2445, Bellville 7535. Alternatively, you can contact Urban Dynamics by calling 011 482 4131 or by sending an e-mail to jaco@udwc.co.za.

HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE

In cooperation with the implementation agent Motlekar, Overstrand Municipality has embarked on several projects to meet the dire need for sustainable housing in the area. As per the Municipality's most recent five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the provision of housing and full basic services is a long-term undertaking which will be implemented in phases, with the assistance of the funding allocated by the Western Cape Government.

As an initial phase, servicing of all sites earmarked for housing development commenced during the 2014/15 fiscal year and, with the exception of Site C2, Swartdam Road and the Housing Admin Site, had been completed by end March 2016.

Construction of top structures on Site B, Swartdam Road will commence in July 2016 and, following on approval by the Department of Human Settlements, it is envisaged that construction of top structures on Site C2, as well as the remainder of the sites, will commence in the next fiscal year (2016/2017).

The explanatory table below sets out progress made to date, as well as the estimated dates of completion:

2015/2016 PROJECT	NUMBER OF UNITS	COMPLETED BY
Mount Pleasant	172	31 March 2016. Handover from April 2016 onwards.
Swartdam Road Site A	48	31 March 2016. Handover from April 2016 onwards.
Garden Site	58	Construction commenced March 2016.
Admin Site (temporary relocation area)	125	Construction to commence April 2016. No transfers involved, given that this site will be used as temporary accommodation for five years.
2016/2017 PROJECT	NUMBER OF UNITS	COMPLETED BY
Garden Site	58	Estimated completion by December 2016. Handover from January 2017 onwards.
Admin Site (temporary relocation area)	125	November 2016. No transfers involved, given that this site will be used as temporary accommodation for five years.
Swartdam Road Site B	131	Construction to commence July 2016. Estimated completion by June 2017.
Zwelihle Site C2	132	Construction to commence July 2016. Estimated completion by June 2017.

"A CHILD WHO CAN READ IS A CHILD WITH A FUTURE"

- a motto that saw Mount Pleasant Library being crowned Best Public Library: Children's Services



Proud chief librarian, Miralda Coert, handed the award to Executive Mayor, Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, during the mayoral meeting held on Wednesday, 24 February 2016. To Ms Coert's left are Don Kearny, Area Manager: Hermanus and Ms Desiree Arrison, Director Management Services.

As early as 2011, the staff of the Mount Pleasant Library started a reading programme to improve users' - especially children's - reading ability. Initially, this programme focused on the pupils of the nursery school Vrolike Vinkies that is right next to the library.

The 60 children, aged three to six years, attended age-appropriate story hours and soon a further three nursery schools were invited to join in the programme. Working according to a timetable, schools nowadays are visited weekly and it is estimated that around 300 children benefit from this programme on a monthly basis.

In recognition of its outstanding achievement and contribution, the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport recently announced that the Mount Pleasant Library is regarded as the Province's best public library in the area of children's services. Runners-up were the Brooklyn Public Library and the Valhalla Public Library, both in the City of Cape Town.

ADDING A LITTLE COLOUR TO BEVERLEY HILLS PLAYSCHOOL



Budgetary custom has it that each ward within Overstrand is awarded around R400 000 for ward based projects.

Recently, Ward 2 in Gansbaai checked up on how a previously supported project was faring and discovered that it would be a matter of "all hands on deck" to keep the facility concerned from sinking.

By way of background, ten years ago when the shelters of informal traders in the Hermanus area were demolished, the material recovered in the process was used to construct a canteen where the destitute of Beverley Hills (Blompark) could turn to when in need of a meal.

Interestingly enough, despite the facility being only 30m² in size, the organisers were able to also incorporate a playschool.

Thanks to officials and volunteers (notably a non-government organisation going under the name of SHARE and operating under the auspices of Pastor Frikkie Zeelie), this "shack" has now undergone a total facelift: The asbestos walls have been replaced, windows and ceilings have been installed and the building has received a fresh coat of paint both inside and out.

This project, according to Ward 2's councillor, Riana de Coning, proves that Overstranders will do whatever is necessary to support those in need and to make sure they have a safe haven.

To learn more about community-oriented projects in your area, consult Overstrand's Integrated Development Plan by visiting www.overstrand.gov.za

HOW TO MAKE A TAX SAVING AND SAVE THE PLANET

- and yes, it's legal!

In his last budget speech, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan quietly let it slip that tax on plastic shopping bags will henceforth amount to eight instead of six cents per bag.

Initially introduced in 2004 by the then Minister of Environmental Affairs, Vali Moosa, the thinking behind this tax was to find a means to fund recycling and educational programmes that would enable all communities to use and dispose of plastic shopping bags in a responsible manner.

Between 2004 and 2014, this tax raised a whopping R1.2 billion but, sadly, only around R200 million actually went towards environmental projects.

Nevertheless, by simply saying "no" to single-use plastic bags, you not only save on tax but also help the environment - especially the marine animals along our beautiful coast who are often the unsuspecting victims of retain humanity the public's sometimes senseless discarding of plastics. thoughtless use of plastics.

The solution is simple: Get yourself a couple of reusable shopping bags which can be used over and over again. Then convince your family, friends and co-workers to do the same.

Better still, if you operate a business, declare your shop a plastic-bag-free zone.

Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, is going all out to make Overstrand the first municipality in the country where not a single plastic shopping bag can be found.

Now that you know that you can also "legally" escape paying unnecessary taxes, how about joining us in this plight?



VOËLKLIIP RESIDENT EARNS YET ANOTHER GOLD AT ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S BOTANICAL ART SHOW IN LONDON

Overstrand is extremely proud of Voëlkliip resident, Margaret de Villiers, who was recently awarded her second gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Botanical Art Show, held in London. Not only did Margaret fly the Overstrand flag high, but she was also the only person from South Africa who earned the privilege of competing on this widely recognised and acclaimed international stage.

As in 2013, Margaret received recognition for her botanical art and skillful recording of the Erica species found in the mountainous enclaves of the Overstrand.

On learning of this achievement, Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie extended her congratulations to Margaret and couldn't help but express her delight "that one of our own trumped such a wide pool of international competitors by winning gold for South Africa".

Well done, Margaret, and thank you for representing your country and our area in such spectacular fashion!



Margaret de Villiers pictured at the 2016 Royal Horticultural Society's London Botanical Art Show

YOUNG CELLIST SET TO ENTHRALL



overstrand arts • kunste

Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK) will host the very talented young Russian cellist, **ALEXANDER RAMM**, in concert on Sunday afternoon 1 May. When this virtuoso with his outstanding technique visited us in 2012, he swept audiences away to a world where no words are necessary! Ramm will be accompanied by well-known SA pianist, **PIETER JACOBS**, who himself has won several international piano competitions. They will perform the Cello Sonata, Op. 119 (1949) by Prokofiev, Le Grand Tango for cello and piano by Piazzolla, the Cello Sonata in D minor (1915) by Debussy, as well as the Cello Sonata in D Minor, Op. 40 by Shostakovich.

The concert starts at 15:30 and tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Further enquiries can be directed to Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.

