

OCTOBER 2017

24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

STOLEN TAPS CAUSE PRECIOUS WATER WASTAGE

Thieves targeting homes and stealing tap fittings are doing the rounds in the Overstrand again.

During August, several incidents occurred where copper taps and fittings were stolen from private properties.

Besides the theft of the water meters and taps, the water wastage in the middle of a drought emergency is concerning.

It is believed thieves steal taps to sell as scrap metal. Captain Fadila September of SAPS Hermanus issued a stern warning to scrap yard owners who buy stolen copper items.

Residents are urged to assist the Municipality by reporting any water leaks, burst pipes, illegal connections, blocked sewer drains, water supply interruptions and any other water-related issues to the different administrations, during office hours (07:45 - 16:30) at the following numbers:

Kleinmond: 028 271 8400 or 028 271 8465

Hermanus: 028 313 8000 or 028 313 8196

Stanford: 028 341 8500 or 028 341 8516

Gansbaai: 028 384 8300 or 028 384 8328

After hours' services have been centralised and all the above numbers will automatically be diverted to the Overstrand's 24-hour Control Room (028 313 8000/8111).

In the event of floods and accidents within the Overstrand area, the Fire and Rescue Emergencies number (028 312 2400) can be used. For day-to-day law enforcement complaints dial 028 313 8980.

How do I know if I have a water leak on my property?

It is possible to have an underground leak on your property and not notice it until you receive a very large water account. If you receive a water bill that is unusually high, it may well be due to a leak.

To check whether there is a leak on your property, try the following:

- Close all the taps in your house.
- Find your water meter. (This is located outside your house, possibly on the boundary).
- Your meter will have a row of numbers.
- Check the meter for movement of the numbers; if there is no visible movement then do the following:
- Take a meter reading by writing down all the numbers on the meter dial.
- Advise all the people on the property not to use any water for at least one hour; this can also be done overnight (don't flush the loo during the night!)
- Take a second meter reading after that time; if the reading has increased, then there is a leak. The numbers on the meter move to measure water flow, so if they have moved, there is a leak.



HAWSTON LIBRARY CELEBRATES TO COMMEMORATE 30 YEARS

The Hawston Library is 30 years old and celebrated this milestone with a commemorative event at Hawston Primary on Monday, 4 September 2017. For both past and current staff, it was an ideal opportunity to regale attendees with fond recollections of their experience over the years at the facility, as well as the huge impact it has had, and continues to have, on the community. For Phillipus May especially, Hawston's first librarian and former councillor, the dream to establish a library for the Hawston community - and in particular its learners who, who did not have access to a library, was very important.

"In those days children had to be transported to Mount Pleasant to take out books," said Phillipus. After hard work behind the scenes and many appeals to community leaders and those of influence leaders, this dream became a reality in August 1987 when Hawston Library opened its doors for the first time, and he was appointed as the librarian.

"Being unable to read is a terrible thing. You rely on others for 'what does it say here' and 'what's the price of this product?' I hope you realize that the library can play an important role in your lives. Participate in the free activities the library offers, do research, read up on your tasks and ask for guidance", he encouraged. Cllr Elnora Gillion, Ward Councillor for Ward 8, said that learners are privileged to get opportunities to improve themselves. "Start reading, take the first step. Do not dismiss this opportunity here. Watch a little less TV and your cellphones aside for a while. Accept responsibility for yourself and for what you want to do with your life." "If you fly somewhere someday, it's important to find your way at the airport; to look up and to read where you should go," she added.

Hawston Primary's principal Julius Swart echoed this sentiment by saying that the children should not lose courage because their parents have no money or literacy. "Get away from this mindset that you can't go anywhere anyway, because there is no money for further studies. If you work hard and pass your subjects, there are bursaries available. Of course, it's not easy if mom and dad work full-time and are not at home. Of course, it's not easy to grow up with your grandmother - a grandmother who may have left school after grade 2 and can't help you with your homework. Of course, it is not easy if there is no money for a newspaper or a few magazines - use the library's service and guidance. "He added that Hawston Primary is now in the privileged position to have its own library. "But we still have a good partnership with the big library. Thank you, aunty Belinda for your support, leadership and partnership. You still assist our children, even though our school now has its own library."

Librarian, Belinda May, closed the proceedings by saying that she and her staff are privileged to be part of a team that has won several awards over the past few years. Hawston Library was, among others, designated as Best Public Library: Children's Services, and made history when they received a Minister's Award for outstanding work delivered to children. She also told everyone of the fantastic holiday programmes they offer for children. During the past winter holiday, for instance between 200 and 250 children were kept busy daily. She thanked the Area Manager, Don Kearney (under whom all the Hermanus libraries fall) for his support.



Front from left to right: Francois Myburgh (area manager: Gansbaai Administration), Julius Swart (Principal), Don Kearney (area manager: Hermanus Administration), Phillipus May (first librarian and former councillor), Christine Marais (honorary guest) and councillor Elnora Gillion.

Behind: Belinda May (librarian), Ronel Salies (Thusong manager, previously employed at Hawston Library), Francina Philander (library assistant), Lucelle Wyngaard (library assistant), Christopher Brintjies (general worker) and Hillary Wessels (library assistant)

GREENEST MUNICIPALITY COMPETITION ADJUDICATORS VISIT OVERSTRAND

The adjudicators of the Waste Management category of the 2017 Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC), received a warm welcome when they visited Overstrand Municipality on Wednesday, 23 August 2017.

Overstrand ranked third amongst Western Cape's Greenest Municipalities overall, and walked off as winner in the category Waste Management, for the sixth time in last year's competition.

Johan van Taak, Overstrand Municipality's coordinator for the competition and the municipality's Solid Waste Manager: Planning, said that Overstrand has always been a keen supporter of the competition. This competition helps the municipality to focus on things that really

matter, and help to improve the quality of our environment and the quality of life, he added.

The adjudication panel consisted of Gregg Adams and Therina Oberholzer from the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs.

The panel had a question and answer session with Johan van Taak and Deputy Director of Infrastructure & Planning, Hanré Blignaut, before they embarked on site visits to solid waste facilities and activities across the Overstrand area.

The winners of the competition will be announced in November 2017.

#GreenestMunicipalityCompetition

FICK'S POOL DEVELOPMENT TO BEGIN SOON

Following a series of hiccups experienced over some time, Overstrand Municipality has awarded a lease agreement to Tasoclox (Pty) Ltd, to develop the area in and around Fick's Pool. This ±5 300m² piece of land is situated in Westcliff, Hermanus and was made available for the specific purpose of developing and operating a restaurant. Also included, is the maintenance of the natural pool and the upgrading of the ablution facilities on the property, over a 20-year lease agreement period. Development will start as soon as the lease agreement is finalised and signed.

Access to the site and ablution facilities remains open to the public.

Join us monthly for the International Coastal Clean-up campaign

Let's keep litter off our beaches and out of the sea by thinking twice before using plastic straws. Let's be mindful of where cigarette butts are thrown. Let's get into the habit of carrying re-usable shopping bags with us.

Let's all do our part in keeping our communities clean. Let's look after our environment and save the planet - one bag at a time!

WHY?

Because what ends up in the stomach of a fish can also end up on your dinner plate!

Dedicated wildlife enthusiast, Sue-Ann Schutte, explains it best in the George Herald: "Plastic is made of chemicals that are poisonous to marine life and us. Plastic pollution affects more than 600 species of marine animals and South African seabirds are among the worst affected in the world."

"Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth four times. Not biodegradable, an ordinary plastic container can take anywhere between 50 and 100 years to degrade, and some will never degrade.

"Pollution on beaches has serious visible effects on the surrounding environment, but what most people do not see, are the effects it has on marine animals and their ecosystems. Of all the types of pollutants that make their way into the marine environment via littering, plastic is the worst.

STARVE TO DEATH

"Naturally, marine animals are affected by litter disposal on beaches which land up in their environment. As most marine mammals are inquisitive by nature, they will swim through plastic and rope to get a closer look and it can ultimately cause cruel injury or death.

"Another more lethal way in which litter affects marine animals, is through ingestion. Even very tiny animals will consume minute pieces of plastic which look no different from plankton due to their small size. The ultimate tragedy is that by eating indigestible materials the animal will feel full and eventually starve to death.

"Seabirds are naturally curious and will eat anything. One of the biggest problems we are faced with, is when marine birds eat fish heads that still have a hook inside the mouth and are often connected to a length of fishing line and a sinker," says Schutte.

There will be monthly clean-ups, parties doing their bit for the environment, all along the Overstrand coast. Why not join one of the clean-up parties from 08:30 to 11:30 at a beach near you?

For more information on clean-ups on our beaches, phone Antonio da Silva-Swart on 072 462 4274; Petro on 079 807 9726 or Whale Coast Conservation on 028 316 2527. Everyone is welcome to participate in the beach clean-ups. #TeamUpToCleanUp #WasteStopsWithMe



Environmental Impact of food



Nowadays, more and more people are aware of the environmental impact of our lifestyles on the planet. Most people look at cutting back on fossil fuels, buying a more fuel-efficient car, using public transport where possible or managing their waste water, but most of us are blissfully unaware of how our food choices also affect the environment.

Livestock production is known to have a serious impact on the planet - it affects air and water

quality, ocean health and is the largest land user in the world.

The raising of livestock is responsible for around 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Scientists in various countries have studied the impact on land, irrigation water and greenhouse gas emissions of various agricultural categories, i.e. wheat, dairy production, etc and found that producing beef required 28 times more land than pork, dairy or egg production, used 11 times more water and resulted in 5 times more greenhouse gas emissions.

With South Africa being an extremely water scarce country, these figures are very relevant to us. When you discover that it takes about 2 400 litres of water to make a 150g beef burger, perhaps beef is one of the first items one should be cutting back on, rather than just having a 2-minute shower every other day? For more information please contact Fiona Matthes on the Facebook link @rethinkthebaghermanus or via e-mail, Fiona.econatural@gmail.com.

CHANGED YOUR DETAILS?

Moved or changed telephones recently?

Have you recently moved and changed your address or do you have a new mobile phone number? Please remember to notify the Municipality of these changes and furnish them with your new details.

The request to change or update information must be done in writing and not telephonically. Changes can also be sent to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za

Alternatively, visit a client service officer at the administration closest to you, to ensure that your information has been updated:

KLEINMOND: 33 5th Avenue, Kleinmond or P/Bag X3 Kleinmond 7159. Tel: 028 271 8400

HERMANUS: Magnolia Street, Hermanus or PO Box 20, Hermanus 7220. Tel: 028 313 8000/8111

STANFORD: 17 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford or PO Box 84, Stanford 7210. Tel: 028 384 8500

GANSBAAI: Main Road, Gansbaai or PO Box 26, GANSBAAI 7220. Tel: 028 384 8300

Your contact information will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to other parties.

ZUILL BAILEY FROM USA TO PERFORM IN THE OVERSTRAND



Zuill Bailey, considered the best cellist in the world at present, will perform for Overstrand music lovers on Sunday afternoon, 29 October!

OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE (OAK) brings you this distinguished soloist, recitalist and teacher. Among other positions simultaneously held, he is currently Professor of Cello at the University of Texas at El Paso. He will play Sonata in C Major by Boccherini; Sonata No. 4 by Beethoven; Paganini Variations by Piatigorsky and Daugherty's Concerto.

Tickets (R140) will be sold out long before the concert, so book early at the TOURISM OFFICE on 028 312 2629, to avoid disappointment.

The concert will take place in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus on Sunday afternoon, 29 October, and commence at 15:30. Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 or 028 312 1895, for further enquiries.



Reporting faulty street lights

Residents can report faulty street lights at the following numbers during office hours (07:45 - 16:30):

Hermanus administration: 028 313 8000/8111 or 028 316 2630

Kleinmond administration: 028 271 8400 or 028 271 8484

Gansbaai administration: 028 384 8300 or 028 384 8358

Stanford administration: 028 384 8500 or 028 384 8376

Any fault which occurs outside normal working hours must be reported to the 24-hour control room on 028 313 8000/8111, or via email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za. Note, e-mails sent will be attended to during office hours.

Information needed to ensure a quick response:

- Detail of problem
- Physical address
- Nearest street corner from faulty light