

OCTOBER 2020

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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

PEDAL POWER DEPLOYED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Towards the middle of August, a hundred black and yellow bicycles were handed over to the SAPS, Overstrand Municipality and four accredited neighbourhood watches as part of the provincial sustainable transport programme (PSTP).

The PSTP is run by the Department of Transport and Public Works in collaboration with the Department of Community Safety and the Bicycle Mobility Consortium which is comprised of the Pedal Power Association, Bicycle Empowerment Network and Qhubeka Charity.

To aid in the fight against crime and in an attempt to improve public safety, eight bicycles went to the OnVerWag neighbourhood watch in Onrus/Vermont, five each to the Pearly Beach and Franskraal NHWs and ten to the Zwelihle NHW.

The police stations in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Kleinmond received four bicycles per station while Overstrand Municipality's Law Enforcement, Traffic, Fire and Environmental Management Departments received 15 bicycles each.

Each cyclist was also handed a bicycle helmet, lock, pump, tyre repair kit and spanner along with a basic safety and maintenance guide to help keep their bicycles safe and in good repair.

These sturdy bicycles are made of heavy-gauge steel tubing and have a carrying capacity of 250 kg. At the time of the handover, Tim Mosdell, CEO of the Bicycle Empowerment Network, pointed out that bicycles afford everyone a reliable and accessible means of transport that can get them where they need to go and also encourage an active lifestyle.

He also confirmed the network's undertaking to hand a further 100 bicycles over to learners in the Overstrand as soon as arrangements around the current Covid-19 lockdown allow. Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee lauded this initiative to promote non-motorised transport and said he is very pleased that, in future, "a number of highly mobile, highly vigilant bikers will help keep an eye on the community's safety and general wellbeing".



Col Muneeb Africa (Hermanus SAPS) looks all set to take one of the bicycles for a "test drive". Looking on are Capt Blanche Davids (Stanford SAPS), Col Winston Coetzee (Gansbaai SAPS), Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Tim Mosdell.



ONE HOME, ONE GARDEN

Municipal support now directed towards encouraging home-grown veggie patches

In the vegetable garden are the Constituency Head for Overstrand Masizole Mngasela (left), Savarion Arendse of Old Mutual, Councillor Amie Africa, Mayor Dudley Coetzee, owner of Ohana Environmental Consultants Melun Jephtha, Minister of Agriculture Dr Ivan Meyer, Creation Wines' Carolyn Martin and Ann Wright.

Since the announcement of the national lockdown in March, Overstrand Municipality, in cooperation with several partners from the private, non-governmental and faith-based sector, managed to deliver just over one million meals to vulnerable people in the Overstrand. This is over and above the relief offered by way of the School Feeding Scheme and the Department of Social Development's food-hamper project and excludes the contributions made by volunteers who opted to run their own "soup kitchens".

By way of illustration, in celebration of Mandela Day, some 3 000 litres of soup were produced per day between 16 and 18 July 2020. In this way, around 27 000 hungry people in needy communities ranging from Rooi Els, Mooiuitsig and Kleinmond to Hawston and Mount Pleasant, Zwelihle, Stanford, Gansbaai, Buffeljagsbaai and Baardskeerdersbos could enjoy a nutritious meal. This tremendous effort was made possible with the aid of several contributors, including the Hemel-en-Aarde Brewery, Zelda la Grange, Deon Bing, the Kolisi Foundation, Riaan Manser and Cape Whale Coast Tourism.

Moving forward, though, a decision has been reached that the municipality should rather redirect its financial support for soup/food kitchens towards encouraging communities to establish their own veggie gardens.

"As much as we owe our gratitude to the countless individuals, businesses and community organisations who worked tirelessly to ensure that no-one went to bed hungry during these trying times, the time has come to look at alternative means to ensure families' food security," said Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee.

HAWSTON COMMUNITY GARDEN A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Not long after the announcement of the national lockdown, the Hawston Garden Club decided the time has come to step in and do something about the plight of many a household who nowadays really battle to put food on the table.

Early in May, as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allowed, local environmental consultant Melun Jephtha and her fellow gardeners set to establishing a vegetable and herb garden on the property of the St Andrews Church in Hawston behind the Overstrand Care Centre and Ability House. Assisted by a handful of volunteers, Melun and her team began by clearing the terrain and were able to plant the first perennials and herbs in June/July with the intention to enrich the soil and to get the compost going so that seasonal vegetables that do not require much water can be planted.

Nowadays, members of the community, primarily women, are learning how to make their own compost so that they can plant and grow their own food.

Recently, the Western Cape Government's "One Home, One Garden" initiative came to the Hawston gardeners' attention, and they asked Ward 8 councillors, Elnora Gillion and Amie Africa, for an opportunity to showcase their garden when next Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, visits Overstrand.

Early in August, the gardeners' wish came true and Melun had the opportunity to explain to a delegation, led by Dr Meyer, that a portion of the vegetables produced in the garden will go towards supplementing the neighbouring hospice's nutritional programme. She also sketched a future where produce can be used for bartering and where the surplus can be turned into pickles, jams and preserves that will be sold at farmers' markets and/or to restaurants.

These community gardeners came away with a huge donation of seed and fertilizer and the promise that both the Department of Agriculture and the expertise available via Elsenburg are at their disposal so that the community garden they established on own initiative will go from strength to strength. *Anyone who would like to support the Hawston gardeners are welcome to email Melun on melon@franklinchana.org.za or Ann Wright on annwright@telkomsa.net.*

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH NOW ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



Despite every effort on government's side to get the message across that countering the impact of Covid-19 is dependent on everyone abiding by simple rules – i.e. wearing a mask and maintaining a social distance of at least 1.5 meters while in public – some people still refuse to cooperate.



Having exhausted all the usual avenues, including social media, to bring this crucial message to the public's attention, the Overstrand District Municipality's disaster management came up with a rather novel idea: Why not offer unemployed youth the opportunity to

act as ambassadors in the fight against Covid-19?

Under the auspices of the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fishing, the municipal coordinators of the Youth Community Outreach Programme were approached to help recruit eighty-eight environmental ambassadors across the region as an extension of the department's Thuma Mina Good Green Deeds project.

The only proviso here was that the recruits must live in the area where they are to fulfill their ambassadorial duties since they should be no strangers to their community.

Overstrand's Local Economic Development Directorate graciously offered to facilitate the training and deployment of the "youth brigade", and Overstrand now has twenty-two youthful Covid-19 ambassadors who were given a mandate to use all means necessary to raise awareness levels within their communities and to spread the word about those preventive measures that are essential to countering the impact of the corona virus.



BETTY'S BAY WASTE DROP-OFF TO CLOSE

As from the end of October 2020, the waste drop-off site next to the Betty's Bay library will no longer be operational.

As is evident from the picture above, "bin-picking" and wind-blown litter pose a serious health threat to anyone attending the library and may attract marauding problem animals.

On announcing the closure of the site, Craig Mitchell, Overstrand Municipality's Manager: Solid Waste Planning, said that the Betty's Bay situation is not unique: "Counting Rooi Els, Onrus and Sandbaai, this is the fourth mini-disposal site we were forced to close for the same reasons in recent years."

He reminded Betty's Bay residents that household refuse are collected on Tuesdays (Jock's Bay & Sunny Seas) and Wednesdays (Betty's Bay Main) and requested all residents to make use of animal-proof waste containers and to only put their waste out on the scheduled collection days.

Any excess refuse can be disposed of at the Kleinmond Transfer Station, with the inclusion of garden waste and builder's rubble.

Restaurants and commercial enterprises requiring regular waste pick-ups more than once a week or additional waste containers are welcome to make arrangements with their local administration.

For details on the rates for additional waste services, visit Overstrand Municipality's official website www.overstrand.gov.za, click on Strategic Documents then Budget and scroll down to Annexure C (Rates and Tariffs).



PLAY FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME – that was the message when Gansbaai-Stanford's Area Manager Francois Myburgh, Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Rotarians Malcolm Bury, Lana Coates, Sandy Pillans and Di Parker handed the newly completed netball court over to captain Anchelle Damon and her team.

STANFORD NETBALL GEARED TO SHINE ON HOME COURT

Several delays despite, the Stanford Netball Club is overjoyed to finally have a dedicated court where the team can practise as often as they wish and even host tournaments.

This new netball court, adjacent to the soccer field in Bezuidenhout Street, was made possible by a partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Stanford and Knoxville (in particular Frank Rothermel and Kathryn Johnson) with the aid of a global grant from the Rotary Foundation.

On 13 August 2020, Rotarian Lana Coates of the Stanford Rotary Club officially handed the new court over to Overstrand Municipality.

Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee used this opportunity to thank the club for their dedication to the wellbeing of Stanford's residents and wished netball captain, Anchelle Damon, and her team many a splendid win.

HERMANUS TRAFFIC TO RESUME TESTING IN OCTOBER

As from 19 August 2020, appointments for learner and driver's licence testing can once again be made given that official testing is to recommence in October.

Note, too, that learner's licences that expired between 27 March and 31 August 2020 will remain valid until 31 January 2021.

To apply for a learner's licence, bring along:

- Two ID photos
- Your identity document / card
- R68 as application fee
- Proof of your address

To apply for a driver's licence test, bring along:

- Two ID photos
- Your identity document / card
- Your learner's licence
- R135 as application fee for motorcycles and light vehicles
- R200 as application fee for heavy vehicles
- Proof of your address

ESKOM TO ADDRESS FREQUENT POWER FAILURES IN GANSBAAI-STANFORD

Towards the middle of August, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Cllr Riana de Coning and a number of municipal officials met with Eskom representatives to discuss the frequency of Eskom power failures and the resultant impact thereof.

The Gansbaai-Stanford area especially is often without power for days on end due to poles and pylons being blown over. A direct consequence is that residents also lose the ability to communicate by landline or cell phone.

This matter was first addressed in December 2019, at which time Eskom submitted a maintenance schedule in response. In July this year, the community once again raised its concern and asked that a workable and mutually acceptable solution be found to address this problem as a matter of urgency.

During the resultant meeting held mid-August, Eskom undertook to survey all its electricity poles from Bot River to Gansbaai as well as the line through Kleinmond. As part of a scheduled maintenance programme, it also undertook to replace all suspect poles and to advise the municipality as well as the public in advance of power interruptions while poles are being replaced.

From its side, the municipality requested that poles preferably be replaced with steel ones and that all existing poles be secured with anchor cables where these are currently not in place.

Eskom estimates that the survey and fitting of anchor cables to existing poles should be completed by March 2021. However, pole replacements may take longer depending on the number of poles that need to be replaced and the available funding.

The possibility of providing a ring-feed supply was also discussed, but the cost of such a system, which would be for the account of Overstrand Municipality, can simply not be afforded at this point in time.

