

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT "ABNORMALLY" HIGH? THIS COULD BE WHY.

Several residents have queried the readings for electricity and water consumption on their municipal accounts for August 2021 in particular since these seemed to be higher compared to those for previous months.

In many instances, this can be ascribed to the number of days included in the reading period (for example, 38 days instead of 30). Note, though, that even though the reading may be higher, the billing system still calculated consumption at the correct sliding-scale tariff by taking the additional days above 30 days into account.

Households who use credit meters were mostly affected by the higher readings which came about as a result of the appointment of a service provider to supply software for meter readings and the awarding of a new tender for meter readings services.

As a result of the latter, no actual readings could be taken during July 2021 and average consumption was charged to accounts. Furthermore, since the newly appointed meter readers first had to familiarise themselves with the area, they

were unable to complete the readings within the normal 30-day period in August 2021 and, in many cases, used 38 days to complete this task instead.

Note, too, that following Eskom's increase, Overstrand Municipality's tariffs for electricity were increased by 14.59%. In combination, the late readings and the tariff increase resulted in higher municipal bills.

Since prepaid electricity meters do not require any meter readings, prepaid tariffs for units purchased are, indeed, cheaper. This is because payment for consumption is immediate whereas it takes approximately 60 days for the municipality to collect monies owed for electricity consumed that is metered by way of conventional/credit meters.

As is evident from the comparison below, residents would be well advised to consider converting from conventional to pre-paid meters since not only is this a less expensive option, it is also the perfect solution to regulate consumption more effectively.

		Tariff		Tariff		
		Credit Meter	Total	Prepaid	Total	Difference
Basic	Usage		469.40		469.40	0.00
Block 1: 0 - 350 kWh	350	1.8010	630.35	1.6636	582.26	48.09
Block 2: 351 - 600 kWh	250	2.6451	661.28	2.4926	623.15	38.13
Block 3: > 600 kWh	100	3.2499	324.99	3.1239	312.39	12.60
			2 086.02		1 987.20	98.82

If you wish to make arrangements to settle your municipal account, please contact the Finance Department on 028 313 8000. Account queries and enquiries regarding the installation of prepaid electricity meters can be directed to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

FIRE & RESCUE'S RESPONSE CAPACITY BOOSTED



Overstrand Fire Chief, Lester Smith; Assistant Director: Provincial Disaster Management, Marlu Rust; fire fighter Jaco Stemmet; Assistant Fire Chief: Operations and Training, Angelo Aplon; Overstrand Fleet Manager, Thelma Lobb; and senior fire fighters Gallie Badenhorst and Adam Mars were there to welcome the latest additions to Overstrand's fire-fighting fleet.

Thanks to funding made available by the provincial directorate: disaster management and fire and rescue services, Overstrand's fire-fighting fleet has now been expanded to also include two off-roaders kitted out as fire skids.

A fire skid is a complete, self-contained fire-fighting unit commonly used for rapid response to brushfires and fires in regional areas where access by smaller off-road vehicles is required.

At the time of the official handover, Overstrand's Assistant Fire Chief: Operations and Training, Angelo Aplon, explained that these units will mostly be utilised to assist in fighting small to medium fires but will also act as a secondary response to fires across the Overstrand.

According to Fire Chief, Lester Smith, the addition of the skids will improve Overstrand Fire and Rescue's response capacity significantly since destinations can now be reached much faster. Smith also pointed out that the municipality and the province have established a mutually supportive relationship over many years and are resolute in their shared undertaking to prevent untimely and unwanted brushfires.

To this end, Aplon pointed out that despite the latest additions to the fire-fighting fleet, all property owners have an obligation to ensure that their properties are accessible to emergency vehicles at all times. In light of the approaching summer fire season, he also urged residents to make sure that their homes are wildfire ready (see the September edition of Bulletin for advice).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW WARD COMMITTEES CLOSE ON 8 OCTOBER 2021

As announced, the 2021 South African municipal elections will be held on 1 November 2021. Following on those elections, new ward committees must be established in all wards.

To this end, all organisations/sectors, geographical blocks/areas and other stakeholders with a vested interest in community development and good governance are hereby invited to submit nominations for ward committee candidates who will participate in the election of those new ward committees that will serve for the next five-year term.

Applications must be made in the local ward where the organisation/sector and geographical blocks are located and mainly operate.

Nominations to serve as a ward committee member should be submitted to your nearest Municipal Office or your area Manager before **8 October 2021**.

Full details with regards to the nomination process are available on the municipality's official website www.overstrand.gov.za. Click on "Documents" and then go to "Forms".

Of importance here is to note the following:

- ❖ All nominees should be registered voters whose names appear on the voters' roll for the particular ward.
- ❖ No nominations will be considered of anyone who is a member of the municipal Council; permanently or contractually employed by the municipality; and/or a community development worker or who are employed by another sphere (provincial/national) of government.
- ❖ Nominees should also not have been indebted with the municipality for a period longer than three calendar months, unless proof can be provided that arrangements have been made to settle the debt and that they will continue to remain in good standing for the duration of their term of office.
- ❖ No nominations of anyone convicted of an offence and sentenced for a period of more than twelve (12) months will be accepted.

NOMINATION FORMS AND CRITERIA ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM:

Hermanus Administration (Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 & 13)

Mr A. Wyngaard: 028 313 8112, hdignas@overstrand.gov.za, 1 Magnolia Street

Gansbaai Administration (Wards 1, 2, 11 & 14)

Mr F. Myburgh: 028 384 8300, mswart@overstrand.gov.za, Main Road and Stanford Office, 17 Queen Victoria Street

Kleinmond Administration (Wards 9 & 10)

Mr D. Lakey: 028 271 8400, santoni@overstrand.gov.za, 33 5th Avenue

Kindly note, ward committee elections will only take place **after** the upcoming local government election on dates to be announced.

OVERSTRAND WARDS

Overstrand Municipality is located in the Overberg District, Western Cape.

Overstrand's wards are as follows:

1. Stanford, Thembelihle
2. Gansbaai North-East, Masakhane
3. Hermanus
4. Mount Pleasant, Westcliff
5. Zwelihle
6. Zwelihle
7. Sandbaai
8. Fisherhaven, Hawston
9. Kleinmond, Mountain View, Palmiet, Beverly Hills, Ext 6
10. Pringle Bay, Proteadorp, Overhills, Rooi-Els, Mooi-Uitsig, Betty's Bay
11. Baardskeerdersbos, Eluxolweni, Pearly Beach, Buffeljachtbaai, Franskraal
12. Zwelihle
13. Onrus, Vermont
14. Blompark, De Kelders, Gansbaai South-West, Van Dyksbaai

WARD NO. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Addition of Ward 14 & changes to demarcation of existing wards

In light of the upcoming elections, Overstrand Municipality would like to draw voters' attention to the fact that the demarcation of the following wards has changed. These changes and the addition of Ward 14 will have a bearing on nominations for and the election of ward committees as outlined.

WARD NO. FORMERLY INCLUDED

- 1 Franskraal and Masakhane
- 2 Gansbaai, De Kelders, Kleinbaai and Blompark
- 9 Kleinmond, Mountain View and Palmiet
- 11 Stanford, Baardskeerdersbos, Pearly Beach, Viljoenshof, Withoogte and Buffeljachtbaai

NOW INCLUDES

- Stanford and Thembelihle
- Gansbaai North-East and Masakhane
- Kleinmond, Mountain View, Beverly Hills/Extension 6 and Palmiet
- Baardskeerdersbos, Eluxolweni, Pearly Beach, Buffeljachtbaai and Franskraal

Furthermore, a new ward (Ward 14) has been added. This ward has been demarcated to include Blompark, De Kelders, Gansbaai South-West and Van Dyksbaai.

PARKING IN HERMANUS CBD



As of late, employees working for businesses in Hermanus' central business district have taken to leaving their vehicles for the whole day in bays that, under normal circumstances, would have been used by patrons for shorter times while they do their shopping. This practice is definitely not good for business and should be discouraged by business owners as far as possible.

In the interest of creating a vibrant CBD where patrons are not inconvenienced unnecessarily, we appeal to all business owners to encourage their staff to make use of the following long-term (free) parking during business hours:

- Gearing's Point
- Marine Drive
- NG Church grounds
- Hoy's Kopie (opposite Checkers)

Solomzi Madikane, Overstrand Municipality's Director of Social and Economic Development and Tourism, said that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the system to collect parking fees from motorists cannot be reintroduced yet since this involves the exchange of cash between users and parking attendants.

Use of parking bays in the CBD should be restricted to 60 minutes or less as far as possible, and parking attendants will soon be deployed during office hours to point motorists to long-term parking should they need to park for longer than one hour. The temporary parking attendants will be furnished with identifying documents and bibs. No parking fees will be collected, but tipping is optional.

IS YOUR CANINE COMPANION A RESPONSIBLE TOURIST?

In the course of September, we celebrated Tourism Month. This year, the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism opted to highlight four distinct topics that each has a bearing on how we, as tourists, can continue to enjoy all the attractions our country has to offer in a sustainable manner.

Topic 3 pertained to being a responsible tourist, and this is where the Fernkloof Nature Reserve saw a gap to, once again, invite those blessed with a canine companion to take their mates for a walk along the designated Blue Route in the reserve itself or along the Cliff Paths.

Dogs make lovely companions whenever one wants to explore the delights that surround us and, as long as their human companions play fair, they can be pretty well-behaved tourists too.

Playing fair in this instance implies that dog walkers must keep their furry companions on a leash at all times and make sure they scoop the poop.

That is what responsible tourists do.

The invitation still stands: Walkers and pooches are welcome to explore the Blue Route and the Cliff Paths at leisure, provided everyone stick to the rules and behave responsibly.

