

MAY 2023

# Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself



## DIGNITARIES FROM FAR AND WIDE GATHER IN OVERSTRAND TO CELEBRATE FORESTS



There to oversee the planting of several indigenous trees at the Hermanus Community Day Centre were the facility's general and operational managers, Sr Carol Marais and Sr Heather Kinnear; Ward 2 Councillor Theodorah Nqinata; ODM Councillor Archie Klaas; Fhulufhedzani Demana (DFFE); Overstrand's Lauren Rainbird, Tarron Dry, Anver Wyngaard, Theo Steenberg, Heathley Plaatjies, Zandile Bavuma and Samkelo Tyelinzima; President of the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management, Jacques Cedras; MMC for Community Services, Cllr Ronald Nutt; and DFFE Deputy Minister, Makhotsa Soty.

Having been crowned National Arbor City in 2022, the honour befell Overstrand Municipality to orchestrate events pertaining to the national celebration of International Day of Forests this year.

In collaboration with the Hermanus branch of the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management (IERM), a seminar with the theme "Healthy forests for healthy people" was hosted for representatives from the ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Overberg District Municipality.

Officiating at the event, the Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Makhotsa Soty, reiterated the need to encourage people the world over to plant indigenous trees as a practical gesture towards sustainable environmental management.

"Rather than simply taking whatever we can get from forests, we should learn to give. For that very reason, my department has donated one thousand indigenous trees to be planted across the Overstrand in support of our two million trees programme," she announced.

Quite fittingly, the dignitaries – deputy minister Soty included – rolled up their sleeves to plant an Outeniqua yellowwood (*Afrocarpus falcatus*) in the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens in Betty's Bay and several indigenous trees at the Community Day Centre in Hermanus.

Sister Carol Marais, facility manager of the Hermanus CDC, was overjoyed with the "greening" of their grounds and said that the newly planted white karree (*Rhus pendulina*), Cape ash (*Ekebergia capensis*) and wild plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*) trees will most definitely contribute to restoring the dignity and wellbeing of those who they care for on a daily basis.

## ADJUSTED PROPERTY RATES

At the time of tabling the draft budget for the 2023/24 financial year, Mayor Rabie also tabled the proposed cent-in-the-Rand rate that will be used to calculate property rates based on the latest valuation role. In general, properties are categorised according to zoning (i.e. for residential, business/industrial or agricultural use). The rates levied against properties vary between categories but, in accordance with the Municipal Property Rates Act, are based in general on the market value of the land and any improvements (e.g. buildings) on the property.

In turn, market value is based on the price a willing seller would realistically fetch from a willing buyer for the property in an open market.

Using this value as a basis, a comparative value of all properties in a neighbourhood can be calculated. This assessed value is called the municipal value and is used by the Municipality for the levying of property rates.

## 2023/24 PROPOSED RATES

- 👉 **Agricultural properties** – 0.001053 cent in the Rand
- 👉 **Business/industrial properties** – 0.007368 cent in the Rand
- 👉 **Residential properties** – 0.00421 cent in the Rand
- 👉 **Undeveloped erven** – 0.006315 cent in the Rand

## IMPLICATIONS OF AMENDED RATES

The example below illustrates the implications of the amended cent-in-the-Rand rates for a **residential property with improvements** where the municipal value has been adjusted from R500 000 to R675 000 as per the latest valuation roll.

PROPOSED CENT IN THE RAND – 0.00421		CURRENT CENT IN THE RAND – 0.00657	
NEW VALUATION	R675 000	PREVIOUS VALUATION	R500 000
Less non-taxable rebate	R15 000	Less non-taxable rebate	R15 000
Less building rebate	R35 000	Less building rebate	R35 000
<b>Rebated value</b>	<b>R625 000</b>	<b>Rebated value</b>	<b>R450 000</b>
Annual property rates	R2 631.25	Annual property rates	R2 956.50
Less 20% building rebate	R526.25	Less 20% building rebate	R591.30
<b>Final annual rates</b>	<b>R2 105.00</b>	<b>Final annual rates</b>	<b>R2 365.20</b>
<b>Final monthly rates</b>	<b>R175.42</b>	<b>Final monthly rates</b>	<b>R197.10</b>

To calculate the monthly property rates that will be payable for properties zoned for business/industrial and agricultural use as well as for undeveloped erven, use the following formula:

**[Municipal value] x [applicable cent-in-the-Rand rate] ÷ 12 = monthly rate**

By way of illustration, monthly property rates payable for an undeveloped erf valued at R450 000 will amount to R236.81 per month:

👉 **R450 000 x R0.006315 ÷ 12 = R236.81 per month**

## BUDGET TRIMMED TO THE BONE

ON 29 MARCH, EXECUTIVE MAYOR DR ANNELIE RABIE TABLED THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR.

In her address, she appealed to the community to temper their expectations of what the municipality can do: "There simply isn't enough money. In fact, we had no option but to sell land so that we can bolster our depleted vehicle fleet and provide storm-water infrastructure, et cetera.

"Some dramatic changes had to be instituted, which means that municipal services will cost more and non-chargeable services such as providing lifesavers and extra security staff to regulate traffic and ensure orderly behaviour at tourism hotspots during peak seasons will have to be cut drastically unless we can find additional funds elsewhere.

"In short, without a surplus on trading services, we cannot generate surplus cash to partly fund capital expenditure nor can we ensure adequate cash backing of reserves and funds."

By way of conclusion, she reminded councillors, residents and stakeholders that "the devil is in the detail", urging all interested and affected parties to make time to review and digest the draft budget so that written representations can be submitted **by close of business (16:30) on 5 May 2023**.

The same arrangement applies to the draft reviewed Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the draft Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) for the 2023/24 financial year. All three documents can be perused at municipal offices and public libraries or downloaded from Overstrand's official website [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za). (Go to Documents, click on Strategic Documents and select the relevant document.)

### DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

he budgeted revenue (excluding capital grants) amounts to R1,692 billion and budgeted operational expenditure to R1,749 billion (including non-cash items like depreciation). Hence, a net deficit of R3,399 m (including an accounting deficit of 57,066 m) is reflected. The amount budgeted for very specific capital projects amounts to R203,615 million.

## PROJECTED REVENUE / OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE PER FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION 2023/24

Functional classification	Revenue (incl. capital grants)	Expenditure
Governance & Administration	R 460,614 m	R 334,374 m
Community & Public Safety	R 179,758 m	R 297,756 m
Economic & Environmental Services	R 21,679 m	R 211,088 m
Trading Services*	R 1,084 b	R 901,649 m
Other	–	R 4,104 m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R1,692 b</b>	<b>R 1,749 b</b>

\* electricity/energy, water management, waste-water management, waste management and the likes

### COST OF RENDERING SERVICES

- With regards to **electricity**, total expenditure amounts to R606,066 m against an income of R640,359 m, allowing for a surplus of R34,294 m (a margin of 5.36% versus the previous year's margin of 7.89%).
- In the case of **water**, expenditure amounts to R161,098 m against an income of R164,563 m, thus a surplus margin of 2.11% or R3,465 m.
- Against an income of R127,423 m and an expenditure of R123,281 m, **waste-water management** provides for a net surplus of 3.25% or R4,142 m.
- With an income totalling R104,634 m against an expenditure of R104,393 m, **waste management** leaves a negligible surplus of 0.23% or R0,241 m.

### EMPLOYEE & COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION

The provision for employee-related costs and the remuneration of Councillors amounts to R551,04 m, in other words 31.51% of the total operating expenditure.

Vacancies will remain frozen and may only be filled if approved by the Municipal Manager. No new posts were considered for inclusion in this draft budget.

\* Note that the proposed increase of 7.4% in the salary budget is well within the National Treasury's norm of 25 - 40%.

## TURNING HOPE INTO REALITY:

ANOTHER 100 FAMILIES NOW HAVE  
A HOME THEY CAN CALL THEIR OWN



### SUCH A JOYOUS OCCASION CALLS FOR A LITTLE FLOURISH:

Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure, Tertius Simmers, handing Cornelia Richard the key to her long-awaited home in the company of Ald. Riana de Coning (Ward 14 Councillor) and Dr. Annelie Rabie (Executive Mayor)



**NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND:** Several beneficiaries with special needs and disabilities were also amongst those who received the title deeds to their new homes. There to share in their joy were, amongst others, Juan Lewis (Ward 14 ward committee member), Desmond Africa (neighbourhood watch) and Carlo Pieters (community liaison officer).

A mere eighteen months after the first sod has been turned, another 100 houses have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries as part of Phase 2 of the integrated residential development programme in Blompark, Gansbaai.

In total, 539 top structures will be delivered at a cost of R124.8 million as part of this housing development which also caters for people with disabilities and special needs.

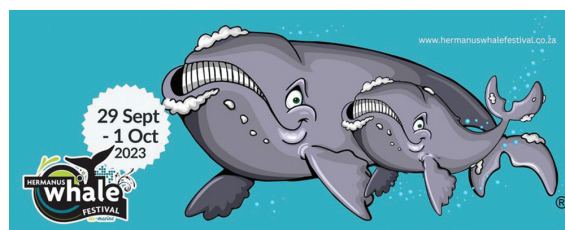
One such beneficiary is the 59-year-old, hearing-impaired Leonie Pieters who applied for a housing subsidy some 15 years ago. On becoming a homeowner for the very first time, Ms Pieters' joy could hardly be contained: "I lived most of my life on farms in informal houses. I feel blessed to have a proper roof over my head and to know it belongs to me," she said by way of her daughter Eloise Dyk who acted as her interpreter.

At the time of the handover, Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, thanked the community for the patience they exercised in the course of the rather tedious process the Western Cape Housing Department had to go through before a housing project can be completed successfully.

She also, yet again, urged beneficiaries to take care of their properties and to ensure that they draw up a will as a matter of urgency since in the absence of such a crucial document, their long-awaited home could end up in "strangers' hands".

## 2023 WHALE FESTIVAL – It's all systems go!

For more than thirty-two years, the annual Whale Festival has drawn huge crowds from far and wide to Hermanus.



Notoriously, people attend these festivals not only to witness the frolicking whales but also to savour the delectable food and wine on offer and to engage in a little frivolity of their own.

If all goes according to plan, the Whale Festival will yet again be hosted from 29 September to 1 October 2023 to coincide with the first weekend of the October school holidays.

On behalf of Council, Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie has pledged the municipality's full support for this event.

She also encourages anyone who would like to collaborate or partake in this event to contact the Festival Director, Jeanette du Toit, on 082 739 1022 or at [jeanette@hermanuswhalefestival.co.za](mailto:jeanette@hermanuswhalefestival.co.za) without delay "so that we can return this event to its former glory in the interest of strengthening our local economy and reclaiming Overstrand's rightful place as a prime tourist destination".

## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

– even in the case of baboons



Nowadays, Eco Monitors patrolling the streets of Pringle Bay are armed with whistles and vuvuzelas to warn residents and business owners that a baboon troop has entered the urban area and that now would be a good time to close their doors and windows.

Dressed in blue overalls and bright yellow-green bibs, these monitors will mainly focus on the CBD and will momentarily sound either their whistles or vuvuzelas to warn against the possibility of an impending baboon raid.

For the time being, the use of whistles and vuvuzelas will be alternated until such time as the most effective "early-warning tool" has been established.

According to Dean O'Neill, Overstrand's municipal manager, this early-warning system was approved as a standard operating procedure by the Ward 10 ward committee and will, hopefully, encourage those who reside in problem-animal areas to be more proactive, also in as far as managing their waste is concerned.