

JANUARY 2025

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

RABIES



FOR THE SAKE OF ITS SAFETY AND YOURS:

KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH!

Unfortunately, confirmed cases of rabies among Cape fur seals are still being reported up and down the coast.

Seals can travel kilometres in the ocean and often haul out to rest on beaches and rocky shores. On top of that, seal carcasses regularly wash ashore along Overstrand's coastline.

Of course, not all the seals we see on our beaches are necessarily infected with rabies, and neither are all the carcasses that wash ashore a danger to the public. But in the interest of keeping everyone (humans, pets and wildlife) safe, Overstrand Municipality will strictly enforce its by law whereby all dogs must be kept on a leash in public spaces, including beaches, at all times.

Rabies can be spread by infected seals biting dogs/humans, and by dogs biting seals, but it can also be spread when a dog as much as licks or scavenges on an infected carcass.

Should you encounter a seal carcass or any part thereof on the beach, do not touch or handle it and keep well clear of live seals that have hauled out along the coastline.

If you spot a seal that appears to be behaving abnormally, please take a video if you can and pin the locality.

Seals resting peacefully on the shore should not be regarded as unusual behaviour.

Please report any incidences of bites or aggressive behaviour immediately to Overstrand Municipality's environmental management section on 028 316 3724 (o/h) or the Fire & Rescue Emergency Control Room on 028 312 2400 (a/h) as well as on the iNaturalist website.

Alternatively, alert the state veterinarian by calling 083 236 2924.

PREVENTION TRULY THE BEST OPTION

We urge all pet owners to act responsibly by taking the necessary precautionary steps (i.e. making sure that their pet's vaccination is up to date) and to obey the law: No dogs may be off the leash in any public space:

Not on the beach, nor on a cliff path.

PLEASE TREAT OUR WASTE-REMOVAL TEAMS WITH DUE RESPECT

They show up week after week to collect your waste, and week after week they have to duck and dive snarling dogs that, seemingly, have been lying in wait since before the crack of dawn.

On top of that, these workers often suffer injuries because people simply chuck any and everything in the bin or bag without sparing so much as a thought for the unsuspecting person who has to handle it next.

WASTE REMOVERS RENDER AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE NO RESIDENT CAN DO WITHOUT. THIS BEGS THE QUESTION: WHY DO WE HAVE SO LITTLE REGARD FOR THEIR SAFETY AND WELLBEING?

➤ On the subject of dogs:

In terms of Overstrand Municipality's by-law relating to the keeping of dogs, "no person may keep a dog on premises that are not fenced in such a manner that such dog is at all times confined to the premises".

In short, if it is found that your dog is posing a threat to or harassing waste collectors because it is **not confined to your premises**, the municipality can impound the animal irrespective of its size or breed.

Thus, since everyone in Overstrand is fully aware of the days on which waste is collected in their areas, do us and your dog a favour: Keep it off the streets so the waste collectors can do their job without fear of being mauled.

➤ On the subject of sharp objects:

Accidents happen, and there's not a single household that can claim that no-one has never dropped a glass/cup/plate or accidentally knocked over a bottle.

Typically, the first reaction is to sweep up the shards as quickly as possible to keep someone from cutting a foot or a hand.

Unfortunately, the next typical reaction is to simply dump those shards in the waste bin without even thinking about what might happen to the person who handles it next. How inconsiderate!

Be sure to always wrap sharp objects (broken glass, crockery, etc.) in newspaper before chucking it in the refuse bag/bin: It's a simple act of kindness that will be much, much appreciated.



HERMANUS POST OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS



To get hold of the post office, call one of these numbers:

- 028 312 1531 [Branch Manager]
- 028 313 6180 [Cashier]
- 028 312 2316 [Depot]

ALL BOREHOLES/WELLPOINTS MUST BE REGISTERED

Many a property owner has resorted to sinking a borehole or making use of a wellpoint to ensure that their households have access to alternative water and to simultaneously reduce their monthly water bills.

As much as Overstrand Municipality appreciates the need to safeguard households against possible failures in municipal infrastructure and the impact climate change has on rainfall patterns, we do urge residents to be mindful of the damage excessive extraction of groundwater could cause.

Not only can a significant drop in groundwater levels pose a threat to the operation of municipal water supply systems, but it could also place the ecosystems that keep our rivers and streams flowing at risk.

Of particular importance, though, is to note that all boreholes and wellpoints must comply with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and must be registered in accordance with Section 51 of Overstrand Municipality's Water Bylaw.

Thus, to ensure that your borehole/wellpoint is registered, please contact the relevant representative of the Civil Engineering Services Department who will gladly assist you to complete the necessary registration form. Alternatively, download the form from the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za and hand it in at your nearest municipal office as soon as possible.



Water extracted via boreholes/wellpoints must meet the SANS 0241 standards for drinking water, and no borehole/wellpoint may be connected to any installation that is also linked to the municipal water supply.

To register your borehole/wellpoint, contact:

- Hermanus to Fisherhaven/Benguela Cove:
Anne-Marie Jesson
[ajesson@overstrand.gov.za]
- Kleinmond/Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay/Rooiels:
Theresa Arendse
[tarendse@overstrand.gov.za]
- Gansbaai/Stanford/Pearly Beach/
Baardskeedersbos/Buffeljagsbaai:
Tanya Smit [tsmit@overstrand.gov.za]

ONRUS ESTUARY

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON

DRAFT MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recent flood events led to a considerable volume of sediment being deposited in the lower Onrus River and Estuary, causing the estuarine bed level to rise by over three metres in places.

Given its current state, it is unlikely that the Onrus Estuary will be able to withstand yet another flood/heavy rainfall event, implying that lives and properties could be at risk.

Consequently, a Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) is proposed.

Said plan in its draft form is now open for public discussion and scrutiny with a view to finalisation and submission.

- We advise all interested and affected parties to study the draft MMP in detail. The document can be downloaded via one of the following links:
 - <https://www.overstrand.gov.za/strategies-plans-and-frameworks/>
 - <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>
- Also, be sure to attend the public participation meeting that will be held on 9 January 2025 from 17:00 to 19:30 at the NG Church in Onrus (55 Berg Street).

If you would like to comment on the draft MMP, kindly **submit your comments by no later than 3 February 2025** to Cheruscha Swart at cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za.

Should you have any queries regarding the proposed MMP or wish to be kept abreast of developments in this regard, please do not hesitate to e-mail Ms Swart or call her on 021 701 3420.



MARIKANA ELECTRIFICATION

Five hundred households in Marikana were earmarked for electrification as part of Phase 2 of Overstrand Municipality's project to improve the living conditions of those who reside in this informal settlement in Zwelihle.

Early in December last year, the electricity supply to 170 of those households was switched on and it is anticipated that the remainder of the connections will be completed by mid-2025.

As pointed out by Executive Mayor, Dr. Annelie Rabie, "projects such as these not only restore the dignity of those who reside in informal settlements by making access to basic conveniences such as a hot shower and refrigerated food possible, they also go a long way towards formalising electrical infrastructure and eliminating illegal and dangerous connections".

There to help Mayor Rabie "throw the switch" were George Lotter (Principal Technician: Electrical), Derick Hunter (Lyners Consulting Engineers), Abrie Hickman (Adenco Construction), and Jamie Klem (Senior Superintendent: Projects). The real "heroes", though, were Rudolph (Dolfie) Hansen and Benjamin Felix [pictured on the hoist] who had the privilege to actually make the magic moment happen.



ELECTRICITY METER AUDIT *IN FULL SWING*

Overstrand Municipality has appointed Spectrum Utility Management (SUM) to conduct an audit of all electricity meters supplied by the municipality. The audit will cover both prepaid and conventional meters as well as automatic geyser-control (ACD) units and is intended to:

- identify and replace faulty electricity meters;
- identify and rectify unsafe electricity meter installations;
- identify and rectify illegal use of electricity, including meter tampering and unsafe distribution, and to
- tag all circuit breakers supplying electricity meters in the area.

HOW THE AUDIT WILL AFFECT YOU

A SUM field technician will show up at your home to inspect the meters listed above. They will be working six days a week (i.e. from Monday to Saturday) from 07:00 – 18:00 with the intention to complete the audit by no later than 30 June 2026.

For obvious reasons, these technicians will require access to both the erf and the inside of your home, depending on where the respective meters/units are located.

Unfortunately, publishing an official schedule as to where and when inspections will take place is simply not viable, as it would allow the so-called "chancers" to hide their illegal activities long before the field technicians show up.

So as to not to unduly inconvenience you, though, your ward councillor will inform you when the field technicians have commenced their activities in your area.

Once you have received such a notification from your ward councillor, it will be appreciated if you could arrange access to your premises.

In instances where the team cannot gain access to a property, they will leave a note requesting the occupant to contact the Electricity Department to schedule a convenient time for the inspection.

Note that the audit excludes meters supplied by Eskom.



SECURITY

As proof of their authorisation by Overstrand Municipality to inspect your meter, all field technicians will carry an official SUM photo-ID displaying their full names and identity number as well as a municipal telephone number you can call to verify their authenticity.

Only allow authorised personnel with official identification cards access to your premises. Should you have any doubts, please call the Electricity Department on 028 316 5600 straightaway.



Collab Citizen App

Why rely on an iffy telecommunications system if you can log/track a service request in a jiffy?



DOWNLOAD THE COLLAB CITIZEN APP TODAY. IT'S A REAL TIMESAVER.

First off, Overstrand Municipality would like to apologise for the inconvenience recent upgrades to its telecommunications system caused:

- calls were dropped and/or delayed;
- parties to the call could hardly hear one another; and
- dialling out to some external numbers proved just about impossible.

Thankfully, we believe that most of these glitches have been resolved and that the system is now fully functional.

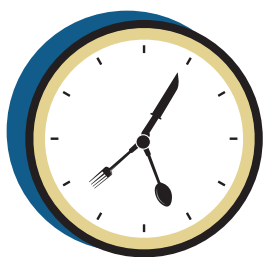
Be that as it may, we do urge residents to rather make use of the Collab Citizen app given the convenience it offers.

Without making a single telephone call, you can:

- Log and track service requests
- View feedback on your request and comment on the municipality's response
- Check and/or query account balances and meter readings
- Change billing information and settings

And you can do all of the above 24/7, 365 days of the year from anywhere in the world!

Why bother with tedious telephone calls? Search for the green Collab Citizen icon in Google Play Store, Apple App Store or Huawei App Gallery and download. A handy guide on how to install and use this time-saver to your best advantage is available at www.overstrand.gov.za/overstrand-collab-citizen-app.



NEW MUNICIPAL OPERATING HOURS

Following on a survey conducted amongst personnel and having consulted the Local Labour Forum, the Overstrand Municipal Council agreed to alter the municipality's operating hours as outlined below for a two-month trial period commencing 1 January and running until the end of February 2025.

In essence, the staff agreed to shorten their daily lunch breaks by 30 minutes (13:00 to 13:30). The time thus saved during the week means that municipal offices can close earlier on Fridays (15:15).

Note, though, that these changes do not affect the rendering of essential and emergency services at all. These services will still be available 24/7, 365 days of the year.

To get to grips with Overstrand Municipality's new operating hours, please refer to the handy overview below:



Municipal Offices - Administration

Mon - Thurs: 07:45 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 16:30
Fridays: 07:45 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:15

Municipal Offices - Operations

Mon - Thurs: 07:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 16:30
Fridays: 07:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:15

CASHIER POINTS:

▶ Accounts/Other payments:

Hermanus:

Mondays - Thursdays: 08:00 - 15:30
Fridays: 08:00 - 14:15

Gansbaai, Kleinmond, Stanford:

Mondays - Thursdays: 08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:30
Fridays: 08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 14:15

▶ Traffic Services:

Mondays - Thursdays:

08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:15

Fridays: 08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 14:15

Hermanus K53 & Motor Registration open during lunch

▶ Municipal Court:

Mondays - Thursdays:

08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:00

Fridays: 08:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 14:30



LIBRARIES:

- **Mondays - Thursdays:** 09:30 - 17:00
- **Fridays:** 08:45 - 15:15



REGISTRATION OF SPAZA SHOPS

As part of a comprehensive preventative campaign to protect customers, especially children, against harmful substances and foodstuffs that are no longer fit for human consumption, all spaza shops and food-handling facilities must be registered with the local municipality in which they operate.

In Overstrand Municipality's area of jurisdiction, municipal officials are already in the process of conducting on-site inspections to verify that all operators of spaza shops are licensed, comply with relevant regulations and are not guilty of trading in illegal goods.

Should it be found that a spaza shop does not comply, the owner will be afforded an opportunity to rectify the matter by completing a formal application form and tendering the requisite documentation in support.

Amongst others, owners will be required to submit:

1. a layout/building plan to scale of the business's premises;
2. an affidavit stating that he/she (the owner) is not engaged in the trade of illegal goods;
3. an affidavit stating that he/she undertakes to operate his/her business in accordance with prescribed norms and standards; and
4. in instances where the premises are owned by someone else, the actual property owner's consent (power of attorney) that the premises may be used for the purposes of a spaza shop.

In cases where the business owner is not a South African citizen, the following documentation must also be tendered:

- a) a copy of the Section 22 or Section 24 permit whereby the applicant has been granted temporary residency based on either his/her status as an asylum seeker or refugee; and
- b) a valid visa that permits a foreign national to conduct business in the Republic of South Africa.

Once the municipality has ascertained to its satisfaction that all conditions have been met, the business owner will be assisted to complete the requisite application form and, on approval, will be issued a registration card or permit that must be displayed and available for inspection at all times.

If you have any questions regarding the registration process or require assistance, please feel free to visit your nearest municipal office where a public liaison officer will assist you. Alternatively, send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

BE SCAM SAVVY

Many scams are doing the rounds: One even threatens the imminent disconnection of municipal services.

Do note that we will never inform you via WhatsApp that your account is in arrears and that we are about to disconnect your municipal services.

In instances where accounts are in arrears, the following procedure is strictly adhered to:

1. If we have a client's cell phone number on record, we will send an SMS to inform the client that his/her account is in arrears and that he/she has two days to make a payment.
2. If payment is not made within two days, a 14-day notice will be delivered to the client's physical address as well as sent via e-mail where an e-mail address is on record.
3. Only when payment has not been made within the 14-day period will municipal services be restricted and/or disconnected.

Note, too, that municipal officials will never demand payment upfront to keep you connected. If any money (e.g. reconnection fees) is to be paid, payments must be made directly to Overstrand Municipality's official bank account, either via EFT or at a rates hall.

Please remain alert and be sure to report any suspicious activity to the relevant authority and the SAPS immediately.

IT'S SUMMER! FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE NOW OPEN TILL 19:00

Hikers are cautioned to remain vigilant and be safe

Up and until the 30th of April, the reserve will be open to welcome visitors and hikers between the hours of 06:00 and 19:00.

The longer hours despite, hikers especially should take care to plan their excursions so that they can exit the reserve **before** closing time since the main gate does not open automatically.

In case of an emergency or if you find yourself stuck after closing time, call the emergency number listed on the gate: 028 313 8111.

Those who have a valid booking at Galpin Hut or who are attending a meeting or function organised by the Hermanus Botanical Society need not worry: Arrangements will be made to ensure that you can exist the reserve safely.

SIX-MONTH EXTENSION GRANTED FOR BABOON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Overstrand Municipality's current baboon management programme will now run for an additional six months, in other words until June 2025.

This extension allows the municipality and the Western Cape Government time to reach an agreement on certain key issues, such as the delegation of responsibilities, funding and the strategies that will guide the programme going forward.



CONSTRUCTION OF HAWSTON STADIUM PAVILION UNDERWAY

A boost for sports and local economy



End-April 2024 work to construct a multi-purpose sports facility in Hawston kicked off in earnest. As part of phase 1, all civil engineering works had to be attended to first before construction of the main pavilion could commence.

Overstrand Municipality is happy to report that the all-clear has now been given and that the intention is to complete the first phase of this R34 million-project by end-June 2025.

True to her motto ("see for yourself"), Mayor Rabie invited several councillors as well as Rikus Badenhorst (DA constituency head for the Overstrand) for a walkabout to learn more about the scope of the current works that encompass:

- A reinforced concrete support structure comprised of pad foundations, strip footings, reinforced columns, reinforced raking beams, suspended reinforced concrete slabs and reinforced concrete staircases;
- Steel balustrading for suspended slabs, raking beams and staircases;
- Precast concrete seats to facilitate seating of approximately 500 people; and
- A concrete surface bed to accommodate the envisaged change rooms, ablution facilities, kiosk and offices on the ground floor.

Ward 8 Councillor Arnie Africa equated the construction of the pavilion to a symbol of hope: "Not only does it stimulate the economy by benefiting local contractors and their teams, it holds the promise of a top-class amenity where sportsmen and -women can truly deliver their best," he said.

For his part, Rikus was most impressed that Overstrand Municipality opted to make such a massive investment in improving the quality of life of those who reside in Hawston: "Local governments are often hit hardest when provincial governments must take measures to balance the books. Personally, I find it most encouraging that you chose to use some of the funds granted to upgrade your municipal infrastructure to construct a brand new sports facility. In the long run, this facility will make a significant contribution to especially the wellbeing of our youth, and we thank you for that."