

OCTOBER 2015

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Stanford	028 341 8500	028 341 0445

24 Hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and her winners

STALWARTS SHINE AT GALA EVENT IN THEIR HONOUR



Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie
& Kim MacLean (Sharklady)

On Tuesday evening 25 August 2015, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie hosted Overstrand's annual Night of Achievers to honour those members of the community for whom 'walking the extra mile' has become a force of habit. On the night, no fewer than twenty-one stalwarts were rewarded for their exceptional service to their fellow man and their relentless efforts to safeguard the environment.

the Herberg-aan-die-See, a refuge for those in need.

Mayoral Trophy for Environmental Conservation, 2015

Michael Rutzen, a professional diver with extra-ordinary expertise in diving, shark conservation and marine research, is regarded as one of three people in the world who are able to communicate with great white sharks using his posture and body language during free-diving sessions. He sponsored and initiated the SharkSafe Barrier Project, a new technology that combines magnetism and visual stimuli to deter sharks considered dangerous to humans. Runner-up, Wilfred Chivell, has built a world-class seabird sanctuary in Gansbaai. The African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary is a first for the Overstrand area. This sanctuary has been set up to assist the endangered African Penguin colonies but can treat any injured bird to help increase its survival rate.

Mayor's Award for Excellence, 2015

Special recognition for their extraordinary contribution on the terrains of arts and culture, sports, empowerment, education, youth development, conservation and health and welfare, or for simply inspiring the people of Overstrand to keep on striving for excellence in everything they do, went to:

- Ashwin Bissolati • Charlyn Vosloo • Fanus le Roux
- Fikiswa Gxamesi • Gabbi Jonker • Judy May Onker • Koos Kotze
- Lizma Kotze • Marelleen Matinka • Natasha Bredenkamp
- Prof G van Huyssteen • Teresa Jones • Tracey Chambers
- Tracey Gilmore • Tronel Meintjies • William Ntebe

We salute you! May we all strive to follow your example.



Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie
& Michael Rutzen



Unfurling the Blue Flag: Unwavering 15-year-record for Grotto Beach

When the Blue Flag is unfurled on the 6th of October 2015 on Grotto Beach, many a witness will have cause to reflect.

Fifteen years ago, this initiative was launched by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) in cooperation with local authorities to recognise those beaches around the country who took it upon themselves to uphold the highest standards in terms of coastal tourism and conservation.

To attain Blue Flag status, beaches must comply with no fewer than 33 criteria relating to water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management and safety and services.

This year, the Blue Flag will be hoisted for the fifteenth year running on Grotto Beach in the presence of the honourable minister for tourism, Derek Hanekom - an honour that attests to Overstrand's commitment to maintain South Africa's beaches as amongst the best in the world.

To honour the 15th anniversary of the Blue Flag, bronze, silver and gold beach awards for long service in South Africa's Blue Flag programme will also be awarded.

LONG-AWAITED ELECTRIFICATION OF OVERHILLS COMPLETED



On Tuesday 1 September 2015, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie had occasion to brighten up the lives of those who reside in Kleinmond's informal settlement, Overhills, when she "turned on the lights", so to speak.

Quite a while back, members of this community raised their concerns about having electrical appliances but no electricity with their Ward Councillor, Lisel Krige, who took it upon herself to make their dream a reality by canvassing support for the electrification of Overhills.

Overhills was added to the municipality's electrification programme, and when funds became available in the 2014/15 financial year, the project was launched in October 2014 and completed in August this year. At a cost of R2,5 million, around 376 households are now electrified.

In her address on the day, Mayor Botha-Guthrie pointed out that this was no easy feat. Several challenges had to be overcome - one being that houses standing under the existing Eskom overhead lines had to be relocated first. The lay-out of the terrain and the placement of the existing houses also complicated the installation of the new electrical overhead network considerably.

Her biggest concern, though, was the safety of the residents and especially the children during the construction period, the Mayor said. "Through various meetings with Cllr Krige, area manager Desmond Lakey, staff from the housing department and community leaders, we nevertheless managed to overcome these challenges, and I especially owe my gratitude to the residents for their positive attitude and patience during the construction period."

She also thanked the consultant, Aurecon, and the contractor, Adenco, for their dedication and positive input towards the completion of this project.

All illegal leads and unsafe connections that were supplying electricity to these houses have been removed, and residents now have the benefit of a safe and reliable electricity network. In parting, the Mayor cautioned all beneficiaries to "make sure that everybody in the house uses electricity sparingly, responsibly and safely. It makes our daily living very easy, but can destroy lives and property if it is not used with caution," she warned.

ADDITIONAL COURT UP AND RUNNING



On Monday 31 August 2015, the honourable Chisholm Noble was sworn in as magistrate for the additional court (or "municipal" court) in Hermanus, which means this court officially opened its doors for business on 1 September.

In future, all traffic and municipal-related fines can be settled at this court between the hours of 08:00 to 13:00 and 13:45 to 15:00 on weekdays.

Offenders are reminded to have the original fine as well as their ID documents on hand when they want to settle a fine.

YOUNG SWISS PIANIST ADDS LOCAL COLOUR

GABRIEL ARNOLD, a brilliant young pianist from Switzerland, will enthral the audience when he performs his beautiful 'Song of the Whales', composed after a recent visit to Hermanus. But this piano performance on Friday 23 October promises much more: Arnold will also be playing works by Mozart and Rachmaninov, as well as his own, highly accessible Impromptus.

The concert commences at 19:00 in the Civic Auditorium.

Tickets are R120 (R60 for students) and will be available at the door. Bookings can be made at BELLINI GALLERY on 028 312 4988. Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further details.



Gabriel Arnold

