

DECEMBER 2016

24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Ald Rudolph Smith

We are nearing the end of yet another year, and the time has come for me to wish you all a happy Festive Season.

Following on the local elections earlier this year, Overstrand Municipality saw some rather extensive changes in leadership - including me taking office as Executive Mayor. I am happy to say, though, that the transition has gone smoothly and that we as Council are making the best of the privilege to serve the public, and one another. Given our track record to date, I firmly believe that we will continue to do so for the remainder of our term.

As we enter this holiday season, let us use this time to reflect and to count our many blessings.

My very best wishes go to those who are sick at home or in hospital this Christmas and I wish you a speedy recovery. Let us all extend a little extra kindness to our neighbours, especially the elderly and those who live alone.

To those expecting friends and family, may this Festive Season bring many a fond memory and I extend a hearty welcome to all who will be visiting our shores.

From my fellow councillors and all the dedicated municipal staff, we wish you and your family a blessed and joyous Festive Season.

USE WATER SPARINGLY

"We may be in the clear for now, but unless we establish a culture of preservation, who knows what the future may hold", Overstrand Deputy Director Hanré Blignaut cautions.

Reports on water-shortages experienced by communities countrywide dominate headline news nowadays, and the images of people queuing to collect their daily quota from watering points will forever be imprinted on our minds.

Thankfully, Overstrand can report that its main water sources are not yet under threat.

According to Hanré Blignaut, Deputy Director: Engineering Planning, the De Bos dam currently stands at 98%, while the Buffels River, Pearly Beach and Kraaibosch dams are also at full capacity.

Water supplied to the Greater Hermanus area comes from the De Bos dam, located in the Hemel-and-Aarde Valley, a supply supplemented by a number of boreholes in and around the Gateway Centre. Rooi-Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay are supplied from the Buffels River dam; Kleinmond from the Palmiet River; Gansbaai from the Kraaibosch dam as well as a number of springs in the vicinity; Stanford from a spring and two additional boreholes; and Pearly Beach from the Pearly Beach and Koekemoer dams.

The fact that Overstrand is not experiencing a water shortage at present does not detract from the need to conserve water. "As a matter of fact," Blignaut said, "Overstrand has, and will always be, a water-scarce area, and if we are to ensure that enough water will be available for everyone's everyday use, we will have to change our collective mindset. This means thinking about water differently and finding more efficient ways of using it."

With the warm summer months ahead of us, Blignaut cautioned residents not to contravene section 46(1) of Overstrand's By-law on Water Services, namely that no irrigation should take place between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00. "While this may cause some inconvenience, we call upon all residents to lead the charge for water conservation and to educate our communities on how to use water sparingly," he concluded.

PLANNING ON GREETING 2017 WITH A BANG?

Be sure your fireworks adhere to public regulations!

As is the custom, Overstranders love to welcome the New Year with a bang. Given the volatile nature of the surrounds, though, Fire Chief Lester Smith issued a special word of caution: Chinese lanterns and emergency flares should not be discharged at all since it is hard to predict where these might end up and the likelihood of a resultant fire, and possible loss of life can, therefore, not be excluded.

In general, Smith urged residents to be cautious and considerate when using fireworks, pointing out that animals, in particular, ought to be considered: "As many pet owners know, fireworks and thunder storms can cause a great deal of stress for animals. During celebrations, animals should be kept indoors; it is also advisable to close the curtains and to turn on television or radio to distract the pets," he said.

Exceptions

In terms of sections 54 to 56 of the Municipality's By-law relating to Community Safety, organised fireworks/pyrotechnics displays are limited to traditional locations and will only be permitted with consent from the Chief Fire Officer. Thus far, only one such application has been approved, namely for Birkenhead House (Voëlklip beach).

The Fire Chief has approved designated places

on beaches within the area where the release of fireworks will be permitted between the hours of 23:00 and 01:00 on New Year's Eve. Residents, therefore, need not apply for permission to use fireworks on the following beaches:

- Grotto Beach east (near the lagoon mouth);
- Hawston beach (NOT the camping site or the parking area or the harbour);
- Uilenskraalmond beach;
- Stanford Bay beach (De Kelders), and
- Kleinmond's main beach.

All rockets and airborne fireworks must be set off over the ocean to reduce the possibility of descending into fynbos and/or mountain areas.

Please pick up all the remains of fireworks and keep them out of children's reach. Chief Smith said that in addition, people should read the instructions provided with each firework: never hold or throw a lighted cracker; always stand well back; never return to fireworks once lit because they may explode in one's face; always give fireworks plenty of room and time to explode; light fireworks in an open space.

Discharging fireworks from any other area (including your own backyard) and at any other time will result in a hefty fine. You can be assured that

law enforcement agencies will take action against any person who acts irresponsibly or contravenes prescribed legislation.

Finally, be considerate! If everyone sticks to the designated areas and times, animosity between neighbours and the distress this custom causes for animals can be kept to a minimum.



Any special requests regarding fireworks displays and/or other enquiries must be directed to the Chief Fire Officer on 028 313 8980 during office hours.

Upgraded Hemel-en-Aarde road a triumph for environmentalists and a sheer pleasure for all who treasure the jewels of this valley

It took just over four-and-a-half years, but the upgraded R320 between Hermanus and Caledon are now officially open. This labour-intensive, R240 million project was initiated due to some serious safety concerns brought about by sub-standard vertical and horizontal alignments of the original gravel road. Adverse conditions, such as dust in the dry summer months and slippery surfaces in the wet winter months, had a negative impact on users of this road - especially the industrious farming community who greatly contributed towards turning this fertile valley into a tourist paradise.

Approval of the project came with some serious provisos, though.

To begin with, the provincial department of transport and public works had to agree to an environmental offset prior to approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment as required in accordance with national environmental management legislation. In particular, the proviso was that the effect the upgrade would have on highly endangered species found along Shaw's Pass should be mitigated.

Consequently, great care was taken to protect the natural vegetation, resulting in a full nursery being set up and maintained on site to facilitate the rehabilitation and re-vegetation of the area once construction work had been completed.

The nursery team collected seeds from the area and added these to hydro-seeding mixtures. The team also created a wetland section as part of the nursery where wetland plants, rescued prior to construction, could be safely stored for the duration.

Close to three thousand plants were then re-planted when safe to do so, and a 30 hectare reserve along the slopes of Shaw's Mountain declared - complete with funding to ensure that this reserve can be sustained in the long run.

As an added benefit to the environment - and to create even more opportunities for local labour - an alien vegetation clearing team was also established, resulting in a buffer zone of approximately 20 metres on both sides of the road reserve now being cleared of all alien plants.

This upgraded road now ensures a shorter and much safer drive through the valley and is bound to have a positive effect on the economy, particularly because tourists now have all the more reason to enjoy the valley's picturesque views and savour the produce of its many novel vineyards and eateries.

Yet another feather in the cap of the construction team is that the project's empowerment targets were exceeded by far: Of the total contract value, R17.5 million (7%) was dedicated to local labour, with an additional R31.5 million (13%) earmarked for HDI enterprises. In addition, a number of learnership opportunities were offered on site with four participants completing their learnerships successfully, of which one has subsequently landed a permanent position.



At the symbolic opening of the upgraded R320 are, from left to right, Anton Nell (Director: Department of Transport and Public Works), Archie Klaas (Deputy Mayor: Overberg District Municipality), Mr Donald Grant, Western Cape MEC of Transport & Public Works, Christelle Vosloo (Mayor: Theewaterskloof Municipality), Andries Franklin (Mayor: Overberg District Municipality), Overstrand Mayor Rudolph Smith, Councillors Elnora Gillion & Andrew Kumani.

Registration of contractors tasked with **transporting refuse** from private properties to municipal facilities

Notice is hereby given that all contractors tasked with removing refuse from private properties with the intention to transport said refuse to a municipal transfer and/or dumping site will, in future, be required to register with the municipality in accordance with the Department of Environmental Affairs' latest provisions in this regard.

The Department of Environmental Affairs requires municipalities to report on how much refuse has been dumped at landfill sites and how much refuse has been redirected for possible recycling and/or re-use.

Overstrand Municipality has amended its By-law on Solid Waste accordingly and, in accordance with the amended by-law, all contractors involved in transporting refuse within Overstrand's area of jurisdiction will now be required to register as such with the municipality to enable the latter to obtain the requisite data from contractors who render this type of service.

This arrangement will also simplify payment for the dumping of refuse (more than one ton) since we will now be able to render a single consolidated account to contractors at the end of every month.

Consequently, the database will ease communication between the municipality and contractors by, amongst others, ensuring that amendments with regard to provisions and tariffs are communicated timeously.

A letter of registration and an identifying decal will be issued to those contractors operating within Overstrand's municipal area. This will enable the municipality to distinguish local operators from those operating from outside the municipal area, given that the latter are required to pay a higher dumping rate.

Who must register?

- Contractors who transport building rubble as well as garden and common domestic refuse to municipal drop-off sites, transfer stations and landfills;
- Contractors who trade in scrap material; and
- Contractors who have been contracted by the municipality to transport refuse.

Direct any enquiries in this regard to the Manager: Solid Waste Planning, Johan van Taak, at jvantaak@overstrand.gov.za or tel. 028 313 8000.



Additional Court's first year a resounding success

Having opened its doors just over a year ago, the Additional Court for Municipal Matters can report that nearly 5000 cases have been placed on the court roll since date of inception. Matters pertaining to traffic legislation, municipal by-laws as well as building and planning legislation are heard in this court.

The importance of municipal legislation cannot be overemphasised since it ensures that certain kinds of behaviour or acts are prohibited and punished if prohibitions are not observed. Transgressions in terms of municipal legislation, including by-laws, are defined as any act or omission punishable in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act. Accordingly, any by-law passed by a municipal council has the same force of law as national and provincial legislation.

The additional court was created for the purpose of ensuring that the public give due regard to municipal legislation and to ensure that, in the event of transgressions, the necessary steps are taken to rectify the matter.

That this court has experienced many a success during its first year of operation can be attested to by the fact that numerous overgrown plots posing a fire hazard - a transgression of Overstrand's By-law on Fire Safety - have now been cleared after their owners have been summonsed due to their failure to heed compliance notices issued by the municipality.

A contravention of a by-law can result in the following actions being instituted against the offender:

- Giving notice to the offender. In some instances, such a notice can be dispensed with by paying a fine.
- Issuing a summons due to failure to pay a fine. Ignoring such a summons will result in the additional court issuing a warrant of arrest.

Furthermore, failure to comply with an order of this court could result in the following sanctions being imposed on the offender:

- A sanction of community service
- A fine and/or imprisonment
- A suspended sentence
- A warning

Given its track record to date, the Additional Court is clearly fulfilling its purpose, namely to serve the community by enforcing the rule of law.

Dogs, Blue Flag beaches and Public Spaces

The topic of dogs on Overstrand beaches and in public spaces has been the cause of many a heated debate for many years.

While dogs will still be allowed to enjoy the beaches, their movements will be more restricted to comply with the municipality's By-law on Dogs and Cats as well as international Blue Flag requirements.

Section 6(2) and (3) of the above by-law are clear both in context and literal interpretation: "No person may or cause to allow any dog to be in a public place unless it is kept on a leash." Note that public spaces include any beach, road, path, bridge, footpath or garden, and any other place under the control of the municipality.

Dog owners making use of Overstrand's beaches that earned Blue Flag status - Grotto, Hawston and Kleinmond must respect the stipulation that no dogs will be allowed on these beaches whilst the Blue Flag is flying.

Blue Flag status is an international accreditation, and the programme offers many benefits: Improved tourism facilities, enhanced management of coastal ecosystems, educational awareness programmes and excellent water-quality standards and facilities. Keep the bigger picture in mind and help us to retain this status.

Pet owners are also requested not to bury dog poop in the sand or throw it out to sea. They are required to clean up after their dogs and to dispose of poop bags in the correct bins.

Any contravention of the by-law can be reported to Law Enforcement on 028 313 8000.



In the interest of preserving both the environment (especially birdlife) and the sanctity of the Stanford community, Overstrand Municipality, CapeNature and KRAB (Klein River Association of Boating) have joined forces to ensure that leisure use of the Klein River and estuary section complies with all by-laws applicable to this amenity. For starters, no craft will be allowed access to the river unless proof of a valid skipper's licence can be provided. On submission of such proof, distinguishing white-on-black decals will be issued to qualifying craft, and only craft sporting those decals will be allowed on Section F of the river (according to the Zonation Map). Furthermore, strict rules will be enforced as to where craft may speed or cause a wake. It should also be noted that motorised water sport will not be allowed before 09:30. By way of caution, CapeNature would also like to alert river users that the water level is much higher than usual this year. As a consequence, entry to the bird sanctuary at the bottom of Section 16 E of the river is strictly prohibited and will be patrolled by CapeNature. *For details on the precautions and rules applicable to river usage over the upcoming season, please visit the Overstrand website www.overstrand.gov.za, click on Documents/By-laws/Estuaries.*

Note, too, that boating activities at Maanschynbaai and Prawn Flats will also be monitored, and that strict rules and safety regulations will be enforced here too.

REFUSE REMOVAL OVER FESTIVE SEASON

Business as usual for the most part, but...

In the course of the Festive Season, the respective administrations within Overstrand will continue to remove household refuse on exactly the same days as residents have grown accustomed to. There are a couple of exceptions, though:

- In the Hangklip-Kleinmond area, no refuse will be collected on public holidays. Do note that the transfer station will be operational between the hours of 07:30 and 16:30 on weekends and public holidays.
- In all other areas, refuse will be collected as per the schedules below, irrespective of whether that collection day coincides with a public holiday. Yes, refuse will be collected on Christmas Day as well as on New Year's Day.

Overstrand Municipality has gone to great lengths to ensure that everyone enjoys a pleasant stay during the holidays, but we must appeal to all households to observe the following basic rules when dispensing with household waste:

- Stick to the removal dates as per the schedules below.
- Do not leave your refuse bags on the sidewalk overnight. This practice attracts vagrants and domestic animals. Undoubtedly, we are all but too aware of the devastation their inquisitive nature can cause.
- Having said that, ensure that your collectables are on the sidewalk by no later than 07:00 on the morning of collection.
- Please make use of the special refuse drop-off facilities in your area should the need arise.
- If you will be letting your property over the holiday season, please be sure to bring all arrangements regarding the treatment of household waste to your tenants' attention.
- Most importantly: The operative words in as far as household refuse is concerned are reduce, re-use and recycle. Let's all do our bit to ensure nature can have a respite too.

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| Hermanus | Vermont, Fisherhaven, Voëlklip | Monday |
| | Onrus, Onrus Manor, Chanteclair, Berghof, Sandbaai, Hemel-en-Aarde, Kidbrook, Glen Fruin | Tuesday Tuesday |
| | Zwelihle, Mount Pleasant | Wednesday |
| | Westcliff / Westdene, Hermanus CBD, Northcliff, Industrial Area, Beach Club | Thursday Thursday |
| | Hawston, Eastcliff, Hermanus Heights, Kwaiwater, Mosselrivier, Fernkloof, | Friday |
| Stanford | Stanford North Stanford South | Tuesday Thursday |
| Gansbaai | Pearly Beach, Buffeljagsbaai, Eloxulweni, De Kelders, Masakhane, Beverly Hills | Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday |
| | Franskraal | |
| | Kleinbaai, Baardskeedersbos | |
| | Gansbaai, Masakhane, Beverly Hills, Blompark | |
| | Perlemoenbaai | |
| Kleinmond | Kleinmond, Bettys Bay, Pringle Bay, Rooi Els, Proteadorp, Overhills | Monday Tuesday |

All hands on deck for Festive Season

Overstrand has no equal when it comes to enjoying nature at its best with loads of activities to suit anyone's fancy. And as visitors have come to expect, we have yet again gone to a lot of trouble to ensure holidaymakers can look forward to a safe and clean environment when they visit our beaches and make use of our public amenities and roads.

Law enforcement will maintain a high visibility and work around the clock to ensure road users' safety. A special appeal is made to motorists to adhere to the following basics:

- Always make sure you and your passengers are **buckled up**.
- Always adhere to the **speed limit** - driving too fast will result in a hefty fine, but driving too slow can be hazardous too.
- Maintain a **safe following distance** and check your blind spot before changing lanes.
- Never **drink and drive**. If you intend to consume alcohol, make alternative arrangements so that you will not have to get behind the wheel.
- Don't **text and drive**: #ItCanWait!

- Never leave items such as cell phones, wallets and other valuables in **plain sight**, unattended or on the seat next to you. Always stow your valuables in the boot of your car.

Parking in and around Hermanus

Hermanus has a well-managed parking system to ensure that parking bays are available to be used several times per day which, in turn, will encourage more people to come into town to do some shopping.

Parking in a bay under municipal control costs one rand for 15 minutes, which means it will cost you R4.00 for an hour. Residents also have the option to obtain a permanent parking token from Overstrand Traffic's offices on the corner of Short and Mussel Street at a cost R400 per month.

In addition, free parking is available at Gearing's Point, Hoy's Koppie (opposite Checkers) and on the grounds of the NG Church.

Note, too, that parking fees levied by shopping centres such as Woolworths and Checkers on their own private land are determined by the operators of those centres.

JUNIOR TOWN COUNCIL TAKES OFFICE



The inauguration of the Overstrand Junior Town Councillors, drawn from a pool of grade 10-12 learners of the area's six high schools, was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Hermanus on 3 November. During the 12-month term of office, junior council members are exposed to the work of local government, community development aimed at benefiting their respective communities, the delivery of projects and public appearance. The 2017 junior councillors are (back row from left to right): Kaci van Romburgh (Curro Hermanus), Gabriel Stratford (Curro Hermanus), Panashe Mapfumo (Northcliff House), Janeke Viljoen (Hermanus High), Lismari Strauss (Hermanus High), Zoe van Rensburg (Hermanus High), Donne van Schoor (Hermanus High), Madicyn Venter (Hermanus High), Kirsten Larney (Curro Hermanus), Milia Botha (Curro Hermanus), Leighton Appolis (Hawston Secondary), Curtley Gillion (Hawston Secondary), Abigail de Koker (Hawston Secondary), Delmain Januarie (Hawston Secondary), Aiden Farao (Hawston Secondary), Shariefa Abrahams (Gansbaai Academia), Lupo Hoyi (Qhayiya Secondary), Thimna Mkololo (Gansbaai Academia), Nikilitha Moyakhe (Qhayiya Secondary), Andisiwe Lusawana (Qhayiya Secondary), Sinxolo Magudzu (Qhayiya Secondary), Dehann du Plessis (Gansbaai Academia), Khanyiswa Pungupungu (Gansbaai Academia).

Front row from left to right: Sarah Johnson (Northcliff House), Matthew Smith (Hermanus High), Damian Niemand (Hawston Secondary), Katelin May (Hawston Secondary), Monique Barkley (Deputy Junior Mayor - Northcliff House), Yanna Stergianos (Junior Mayor - Hermanus High), Alderman Dudley Coetzee, Izaan Newman (Deputy Junior Mayor - Gansbaai Academia), Unity Mtomile (Manager: Overstrand Junior Town Council), Fortune Mbeu (Qhayiya Secondary), Ayabonga Qogi (Qhayiya Secondary), Cynthia Kariuki (Northcliff House), Jordan Linehan (Gansbaai Academia).

Electricity deposits explained

The term "Increased deposit", as indicated on bills, refers to the annual adjustment of the deposit payable for electricity usage.

Since July 2012, all electricity deposits are adjusted annually with the average increase applicable to the increase in municipal tariffs for electricity, which relates to the increase as announced by Nersa (National Electricity Regulator of South Africa). In the past, this in effect meant that all consumers' deposits were increased, irrespective of whether they used electricity sparingly or not.

By way of further background, if a client applies for a new connection and no history of his/her consumption exists, the following deposits will be levied for the 2016/17 financial year:

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|---|------------|
| Residential and commercial: Single-phase credit meter (binary tariff) | R 2 000.00 |
| Residential: Three-phase credit meter (binary tariff) | R 3 500.00 |
| Commercial: Three-phase credit meter (binary tariff) | R 8 000.00 |
| Residential and commercial: Single-phase pre-paid meter (binary tariff) | R 460.00 |
| Residential and commercial: Three-phase pre-paid meter (binary tariff) | R 920.00 |

Following on consideration of the concept budget for the 2016/17 financial year, as well as the revised budget-related policies which were open to public inspection, the following amendment was proposed and subsequently approved by Council in May 2016:

That item 7.6.3 of the Policy on Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection should read as follows - Security deposit will be adjusted annually, which will be equal to twice the average consumption during the preceding 12 months.

The calculation of the annual adjustment of the deposit, in the case of credit meters, resulted in many consumers being credited on their bills for September with the adjusted deposit because the current deposit was higher than twice their monthly electricity consumption.

Consumers who are still making use of credit meters can consider switching to pre-paid electricity meters. This would mean that only a deposit of R460 (single-phase) or R920 (three-phase) would be payable and that the balance of the current deposit can then be utilised to cover the costs of switching meters. The unit costs for pre-paid electricity are cheaper than that of credit meters.

The deposit for consumers who are making use of pre-paid electricity meters increased to R460, or the difference between the existing deposit and R460 if a deposit had already been paid earlier.

Pensioners who qualify for indigent relief, will have their deposits adjusted in accordance with the applicable tariff as approved.

Consumers who are unable to settle the increased deposit amount as per the September 2016 accounts in a single payment are welcome to contact the office to make arrangements to settle this amount in instalments. Please direct all enquiries regarding customer service to 028 313 8000.

Emergency Numbers:

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 24 Hour Emergency Control Room | 028 313 8111 |
| Overstrand Fire & Rescue | 028 313 8980 |
| Overstrand Law Enforcement | 028 313 8111 |
| Ambulance | 10177 |
| NSRI | 028 312 3180 |
| Marine & Coastal Management | 028 313 2703 |
| Hermanus Provincial Hospital | 028 313 5200 |
| Hermanus Private Hospital | 028 313 0168 |
| Hermanus Child Welfare | 028 313 0831 |
| Hermanus Animal Welfare | 028 312 1281 |
| Hermanus Police | 028 313 5300 |
| Gansbaai Police | 028 384 0201 |
| Stanford Police | 028 341 0601 |

CLOSING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICES OVER FESTIVE PERIOD

Municipal offices, including libraries but excluding essential services, will be closed from 13:00 on Friday 23 December till Wednesday 28 December at 07:45 and from 13:00 on Friday 30 December till Tuesday 3 January 2017 at 07:45. Do note, though, that all municipal offices will be fully operational on both 28 and 29 December 2016.

Overstrand salutes its fallen heroes



Remembrance Day (informally known as Poppy Day) is a memorial day observed to remember the members of our armed forces who have died in the line of duty. As is customary, Regiment Westelike Provinsie, holder of the Freedom of the Overstrand, lent military colour to this occasion, organised by the local Seagull Shellhole of the MOTHs. Having laid a wreath on behalf of the Overstrand community, Mayor Rudolph Smith said "Let us commemorate these fallen veterans by remembering how fortunate we are to continue pursuing our dreams in peace." Overstrand was especially honoured to have a number of military veterans present at the wreath-laying ceremony, while an NSRI vessel - which happened to be conducting a search operation nearby - came close to shore, lowered its flag and laid a wreath at sea.

THREE CONCERTS BOUND TO ADD FESTIVE CHEER!!



overstrand arts - kunste

Overstrand Arts/Kunste has three concerts lined up for the month of December to add a little extra cheer to the holidays.

On Sunday afternoon, 4 December, our very own Tobias Kotzé will give a song recital in the Civic Auditorium.

On Sunday afternoon, 11 December, a Christmas Concert will be held in the NG Church, Hermanus, featuring the Hermanus Pro Musica Choir and others. Both these concerts will commence at 15:30.

On Saturday night, 17 December, the ever popular Gustavo Romero from the USA will give a piano recital at 19:00 in the Civic Auditorium.

Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. For further enquiries, call Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.



Tobias Kotzé



Gustavo Romero