

MAY 2022

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

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

HERMANUS MARCHES AGAINST GBV



Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, and fellow councillors were joined by the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Masizole Mngasela, on their third march against gender-based violence (GBV) in Hermanus in a bid to call for justice for Sisipho Mayile.

Sisipho, a Grade 12 learner attending Qhayiya Secondary in Zwelihle, went missing on 16 January, and her body was later discovered in the bushes near Camphill Bridge in Hermanus on 25 January.

"I am calling on communities across the province to stand up and speak out against all forms of GBV and domestic violence. If we keep silent, the war will continue to be waged as frustrations caused by the lockdown rise and alcohol abuse exacerbate the crisis," said Speaker Mngasela.

The march was also aimed at sending a clear message to the SAPS to drastically increase their efforts to combat and investigate cases of gender-based violence in the Overstrand.

Mayor Rabie said that it should not be necessary for anyone to have marches such as these to encourage the SAPS to actually do their work.

She also requested a progress report on whether or not someone has been arrested for Sisipho's murder: "Was it part of an organised crime or just someone being nasty? Tell us, so that we know what we are dealing with."

"Trusting one another is the only way forward with this matter, otherwise we are creating factions and groupings that are not conducive to promoting a woman's right to make informed decisions for herself in a secure and safe environment," the Mayor concluded.

RABIE TRUE TO HER WORD:

FIRST THURSDAY EVENTS ROLLED OUT TO KLEINMOND & GANSBAAI

In February this year, the Mayor instituted what she dubbed **First Thursday** events where residents can meet face-to-face with her, members of her Mayoral Committee, the Municipal Manager and senior municipal officials.

The intention with these events is to provide residents with a platform where they can raise their concerns or pitch ideas as to how the challenges Overstranders encounter can be addressed in a viable and sustainable manner.

The first two events (February and March) were hosted in Hermanus but, as Rabie promised, were to be rolled out to other towns from as early as April.

True to her word, the third First Thursday event was held in Kleinmond on 7 April and the next one is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 May in Gansbaai.

The Mayor was most pleased with the number of Kleinmond residents who showed up for the meeting and wishes to reassure those who plan on attending these events in future that sessions will be kept as brief as possible in order to accommodate as many people as possible.

No appointment is needed as sessions are conducted on a first come, first serve basis.

Watch the press for details on the Gansbaai First Thursday event.



UPDATE: SCHULPHOEK HOUSING PROJECT

Overstrand Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie, Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsabo (current chairperson of the Schulphoek Social Compact), the Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill as well as the Director of Community Services Roderick Williams met with officials from the Department of Human Settlements (DoHS) responsible for the Schulphoek Housing Project early in April.

The DoHS' departmental project leader and chief town and regional planner, Ilani Nel, as well as the technical project leader were also present.

During the meeting, the Mayor requested clarity on when the project signage and construction fencing would be erected. The DoHS indicated that they will only be able to provide this information after internal consultation with the Acting Head of Department and the CFO.

After the Mayor stressed that these items had, indeed, to have been erected in October 2021, agreement was reached that feedback will be provided as a matter of urgency.

It was also resolved that a project plan with targets and due dates will be submitted to the Mayor and Municipal Manager and that all municipal officials present at the meeting will be copied in all related correspondence going forward.

By way of conclusion, the Mayor reiterated the importance of this project, specifically with regards to the stability of communities in Hermanus, and emphasised that a coordinated effort is needed to see it through.

2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET: POSSIBLE REVISION OF PROPOSED ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

Following the tabling of its draft budget for the year 2022/23 on 30 March 2022, Council wishes to inform all interested and affected parties that NERSA subsequently recommended an average increase of 7,47% in bulk tariffs charged to municipalities as opposed to the 10,33% proposed by Eskom.

This recommendation implies that Overstrand Municipality will have to review its proposed electricity tariffs once the percentage increase has been finalised.

Hopefully, this matter will be resolved in time to table the final 2022/23 budget on 31 May 2022.

WHY **BABOONS** ARE FITTED WITH TRACKING COLLARS

Concerned residents in Pringle Bay asked about the 'new' collar fitted to one of the local troop's female baboons (PBF1) and wondered why baboons had to be collared.

PBF1 was fitted with a tracking collar in December 2019 and her collar was replaced with a new one in February 2022.

Collars allow the management team to monitor the troop's whereabouts. This allows the service provider to set up action plans to prevent the troop from entering the urban edge as per Overstrand Municipality's Strategic Baboon Management Plan.

The collars used in the Overstrand comply with international standards' best practices which state that the collar needs to weigh less than 5% of the body weight of an animal. In Overstrand, the service provider limits collar weight to 3% of the animal's body weight: PBF1's collar weighs 2% of her body weight.

Overstrand baboons are fitted with GPS collars that do not have flashing lights.

Grooming of baboons

Residents also noticed that the collared baboon is being attended to a lot by other baboons and wondered about that.

As previously stated, PBF1 is the Alpha female of the Pringle Bay troop and that is why she is being groomed by so many other baboons. As the Alpha female, her status in the hierarchy affords her the privilege of always being attended to by other baboons.

What happened to some of the baboons?

Another collared female of the Pringle Bay troop (PBF2) died of old age. PBF3 was killed by a leopard in the surrounding mountains, and an unmarked/unnamed female succumbed to injuries caused by a dog attack when she ventured into town.

TAKE NOTE

Refuse in Overstrand collected weekly per a fixed schedule



HERMANUS

- MONDAY: Vermont, Fisherhaven, Voëlklip • TUESDAY: Onrus, Chanteclair, Berghof, Sandbaai, Hemel-en-Aarde • WEDNESDAY: Zwelihle, Mount Pleasant • THURSDAY: Westcliff, Northcliff, CBD, Hermanus industrial • FRIDAY: Hawston, Eastcliff, Hermanus Heights, Kwaiwater, Fernkloof

HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND

- MONDAY: Rooi-Els, Kleinmond avenues, Klein Berlyn, Heuningkloof • TUESDAY: Proteadorp, Overhills, Mountain View, Extension 6, Palmiet, Sunny Seas, Jock's Bay • WEDNESDAY: Betty's Bay, Mooiuisig • THURSDAY: Pringle Bay • FRIDAY: Businesses

GANSBAAI

- MONDAY: Pearly Beach • TUESDAY: De Kelders, Masakhane, Beverly Hills • WEDNESDAY: Franskraal, portion of Gansbaai Industria and Masakhane • THURSDAY: Kleinbaai, Baardskeedersbos and portion of Gansbaai CBD • FRIDAY: Gansbaai, Perlemoen Bay, Blompark, Masakhane, Beverly Hills

STANFORD

- TUESDAY: north of De Bruyn Street • THURSDAY: south of De Bruyn Street

If need be, household and garden refuse can also be disposed of at any municipal transfer station or drop-off facility any day of the week.

OBTAINING A RATES CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

When selling your property, a rates clearance certificate is one of the documents needed by the conveyancing attorney to lodge the transfer at the deeds office.

Applications for rates clearance certificates are handled by a conveyancer (attorney) and never by the seller.

Overstrand Municipality processes up to 350 clearance certificates in any given month. It could take up to 10 days from receipt of application to issue a statement reflecting outstanding figures. If the outstanding monies are paid immediately, the clearance certificate could be issued within 10 days from date of settlement.

The clearance process:

The seller is responsible for making sure that all outstanding amounts owed to the municipality are settled. Overstrand Municipality will only issue a clearance certificate once it has received a completed prescribed application form, together with all required documentation, from the conveyancer (attorney).

Rates clearance applications for properties without any improvements (vacant erven) require an initial inspection by the Fire Department before the conveyancer will be notified of any outstanding amounts payable. Should the vacant stand be declared a fire hazard, a plot-clearing deposit will be added to the advance collections, unless the property is cleared, re-inspected and declared fire-hazard free by the Fire Department. Currently, the inspection fee amounts to R233 and the plot-clearing administration fee to R1 345.73 (VAT included). Obviously, the actual cost of clearing the plot will also be for the seller's account.

The cost for electronic applications via Ratesclearance.com or L@W amounts to R186. Make sure your attorney has access to either of these electronic systems as it is much cheaper to apply electronically. Manual applications via e-mail amounts to R588. Amounts include VAT and will be applicable until the end of the current financial year (i.e. 30 June 2022).

On the sale of any property within Overstrand's jurisdiction, the municipality will delay the transfer of a property by withholding a clearance certificate until such time as all rates, service and sundry charges and any estimated amounts payable on the property for the duration of the validity of the certificate are settled in full.

The validity period of a rates clearance certificate is 60 days, and the amount due for payment will include three months' advance collections plus all current outstanding debt on the property.

Upon receipt of the completed rates clearance application form, the municipality has 10 (ten) working days to forward the amount due for payment and a further 10 (ten) working days to produce the rates clearance certificate once proof of payment has been established.

Where a debtor has entered into an arrangement with the municipality in respect of the arrears on a property, the prescribed certificate as referred to in Section 118 of the Systems Act will not be issued until such time as the full outstanding amount has been settled.

Sellers are also reminded to ensure that disconnection forms are duly completed where properties are equipped with water and/or electricity meters so that these can be transferred to the new owner (the buyer).

Similarly, buyers of properties that are equipped with water and/or electricity meters are reminded to complete connection forms. These forms are available on our website. Go to www.overstrand.gov.za, click on Documents, click on Forms, click on Revenue Application Forms.

For queries, phone the municipality on 028 313 8000 and ask for the Rates and Data Control Office. Alternatively, send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

TIP-OFF COSTS SUSPECTED POACHERS DEARLY

Recently, diving equipment and rubber ducks to the tune of almost half-a-million rand were confiscated in an operation jointly conducted by Overstrand Municipality's K9 task team, CapeNature and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment – all thanks to a tip-off.

Five divers who were found to be in possession of shucked/unshucked abalone were arrested and taken into custody by the Bredasdorp SAPS.

