

# Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

## FESTIVE SEASON A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

If the praise the municipality received for its handling of a bumper festive season is anything to go by, all who chose Overstrand as the place to spend the holidays had a splendid time.

"It is heart warming to hear how much both residents and visitors appreciated the effort our officials, staff, law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel and a whole array of temporary workers put in to make everyone's stay as pleasant as possible," Mayor Rabie said.

"The cooperation of the public was key to achieving such a positive outcome," she added. "Although law enforcers had to intervene at times, most people cooperated to ensure a safe, enjoyable stay for all. The Traffic Department also noted a remarkable level of public tolerance during this busy period."

"Well done, too, to the hospitality industry who managed to cater to everyone's needs and to business owners for keeping the shelves stocked and the customers happy."

"The success of the past season shows that when all stakeholders work together to promote Overstrand as a safe, welcoming destination, everyone benefits. Thank you."

## SOME NOTEWORTHY TENDENCIES

At the time of going to press, the official report on the outcome of the 2024/25 festive season had not been finalised yet. Nevertheless, the interim reports submitted by the respective directorates indicate that the following are worth noting.

- Clearly, visitors and residents took the call to separate "recyclables" from "wet waste" to heart. In fact, there came a time when the municipality ran out of clear bags and had to wait for the suppliers to reopen before it could replenish its stock.
- On the downside, though, the tendency of some to not dispose of their litter after they have enjoyed a lovely outing on a beach or in a picnic area remains a problem. As disheartening as this might be, the teams assigned to keep Overstrand's public spaces pristine did their job diligently, and with a smile.
- The soaring temperatures and the influx of holidaymakers (most accommodation establishments across the Overstrand experienced near-capacity occupancy rates) placed the water reticulation system under severe pressure. For example, compared to the previous holiday season, an extra 21 594 kℓ were consumed in the Kleinmond area alone and during the last week of December, average daily water consumption in the Greater Hermanus area stood at 19 375 million litres (mℓ) compared to 17 854 mℓ the week before.
- Thanks to careful monitoring and management, none of the municipal reservoirs ran dry, but drops in water pressure and burst pipes did cause a lot of frustration and will need to be attended to.
- Traffic Services reported no road fatalities. However, speeding, negligent/reckless driving and driving under the influence remain a cause for concern.
- Although they had to step in on numerous occasions to rescue/assist bathers, no fatalities were recorded at any of the beaches where lifeguards were on duty.
- Despite a couple of close calls, Fire and Rescue Services' prompt response ensured that veld fires could be contained as effectively and quickly as possible.
- Overall, thanks to the heightened visibility of law enforcers, neighbourhood watches and security companies, incidences of petty theft and crime were kept to minimum.

## DRIVER'S LICENCES CAN NOW BE RENEWED IN GANSBAAI

Gone are the days when Gansbaaiers had to travel all the way to Hermanus to renew their driver's licences.

Recently, both national and provincial transport authorities granted their approval for the official registration of the Gansbaai driving licence testing centre.

This centre opened its doors on 14 January 2025 and, for the time being, will operate from 09:00 to 15:00, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) for driver's licence renewals only.

Note, though, that this is but the first phase leading up to the full deployment of this much-anticipated, multi-purpose centre.

Soon, learner drivers will be able to sit for their requisite written exams here too and, once the phased roll-out has been completed, the centre will be able to handle the full spectrum of services with the inclusion of the assessment of learner drivers' competency and the processing of PDP applications.



Note that the partial opening of the centre does not affect the operational hours of the motor vehicle registration office in Gansbaai at all. This office will remain open throughout the week.

The announcement that the Gansbaai driving licence testing centre has been found fit and ready to open its doors was met with great jubilation by one and all: Pictured in the company of the "official hosts" (Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsabo and Ward 14 Councillor Riana de Coning) are Neville Michaels (Director: Municipal Public Safety); Cllr Jacobus van Staden; Cllr Andrew Komani; Xen Titus (Assistant Chief: Traffic Services & Licensing); Cllr Steven Fourie; Traffic Chief Rudi Fraser; Cllr Dudley Coetzee; Randal Barreiro (Director: Transport Administration and Licensing, Western Cape Government) and former area manager Kat Myburgh.

# RESTORATION OF ONRUS RIVER SYSTEM: FUNDING SECURED

Overstrand Municipality is pleased to announce that it has entered into three key funding agreements that will aid the rehabilitation of the Onrus River system, in particular the river banks and surrounding wetlands.

A funding proposal submitted by the municipality to support a project aimed at restoring the Onrus River



from catchment to sea tweaked the interest of several major players partially due to the unique ecosystems associated with this river.

Amongst others, Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Management and Conservation Division approached the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for financial support under the banner of the latter's #Generation Restoration projects. The outcome of that application is that Overstrand and UNEP have now entered into a small-scale funding agreement whereby USD 80,000 will be placed at the municipality's disposal to assist with strategic planning and the coordination of restoration efforts.

Furthermore, strategic and operational support to the value of R5 million will be provided by yet another key roleplayer, namely the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency.

Given that restoration of the Onrus River's banks and wetlands will, by and large, depend on the successful reintroduction of palmiet, the UK-based

White Desert Foundation also agreed to support this carbon-sequestration project by pledging funds to establish nurseries capable of cultivating these indigenous plants on a large scale.

Intended to attain significant carbon sequestration within the next four to five years, restoration will commence on a small pilot scale to allow the two envisaged nurseries with a combined capability to cultivate around 150 000 plants to get up to speed.

Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Management and Conservation Division will manage funding, monitor the project and ensure that all municipal by-laws and policies are adhered to.

A steering committee, on which all key organisations will enjoy representation, will be tasked with coordination and oversight.

To study the full report tabled in Council, visit the municipality's official website [overstrand.gov.za](http://overstrand.gov.za).

Go to Documents > Meetings: Agendas and Minutes > Council > November 2024.

## COME MEET THE MAYOR

Residents have an open invitation to meet with the Mayor and her team on the first Thursday of each month to raise concerns and to discuss issues. No appointment is necessary, and the meetings are held on a first-come, first-served basis.

The first First Thursday event of 2025 will take place at the Kleinmond Town Hall on 6 February from 17:00 to 19:00. This is an excellent opportunity, especially for residents of Ward 9 and 10, to discuss the challenges related to low water pressure experienced during the December holidays.

As is evident from the water consumption tendencies during the holiday period (see details elsewhere), all water works throughout Overstrand were under severe pressure. The high demand despite, none of the reservoirs ran dry and water purification and treatment plants remained fully functional throughout – a successful outcome that can partially be ascribed to residents and holidaymakers heeding our call to reduce water consumption in an attempt to prevent disruptions.

Nevertheless, specific networks (in particular Kleinmond's Sea Avenues [Seelane] and areas below Palmiet Road as well as Stony Point, Rondevlei, and Silversands in Betty's Bay) were affected by issues relating to weak water pressure and outages.

*In addition to high water consumption due to increased demand, several other factors contributed to these issues:*

- pipe breaks caused no-flow during recovery and reduced pressure while the system was being bled to remove air;
- some leaks on main lines were not immediately visible since water flowed into storm-water infrastructure; and
- instances where valves on main pipelines were closed or partially closed.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to gain a clearer understanding of the challenges related to low water pressure and to raise any other concerns.

## CLIENT CONTACT CENTRE GEARED TO RESPOND

24/7

Overstrand Municipality's Client Contact Centre is there to attend to your service requests or to handle emergencies related to municipal services any time of the night or day the whole year round.

Understandably, though, at some point, staff manning this centre must change shifts. That shift change occurs between 17:45 and 18:15 each evening.

Should you happen to call 028 313 8111 (the centre's number) during that time and your call is not answered immediately, do not hang up.

Please wait until you have been directed to voicemail and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as the shift change has been completed.

An alternative to relying on telephone calls to log a service request or to report an emergency is to make use of the Collab Citizen app.

This app can be downloaded from Google Play Store, Apple App Store or Huawei App Gallery and will enable you to log and track service requests from anywhere in the world, anytime of the day without having to make a single telephone call.

**KEEPING TABS ON WATER QUALITY:** Be it drinking water or effluent, Overstrand residents can rest assured that Overstrand Municipality is constantly monitoring the quality of both and will, where necessary, immediately take the necessary steps to ensure that the highest standards are consistently adhered to.

**WATER QUALITY:** Water quality is measured against SANS 0241 standards for drinking water. Monthly samples are collected by an accredited laboratory to test various bacteriological, chemical, and physical parameters. If water fails to meet these standards, corrections are made at the purification works and reticulation network, followed by re-testing for compliance.

The latest report shows that water from all nine treatment plants in the Overstrand is of outstanding quality.

**WASTE WATER:** Wastewater effluent quality is measured against standards (classified as either "general" or "special") set by the Department of Water and Sanitation. Samples are taken monthly for analysis by accredited laboratories. If effluent does not meet general standards, corrections are made at the treatment works, followed by re-testing for compliance. Over the past eight months, wastewater quality at the six treatment plants has complied 89% of the time.

A table reflecting the quality of water and waste water effluent is available on the municipality's official website [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za). Go to Documents > Reports and Statistics.

## SOLID WASTE TEAMS FRUSTRATED BY IRRESPONSIBLE WASTE DISPOSAL

Having had such a fantastic holiday season where one and all disposed of their waste in a responsible manner, it is disheartening to see that the improper handling of household waste has yet again become a major cause of littering that is bound to lead to the environmental degradation of residential areas.

Black bags left unattended on sidewalks will be torn open by dogs and cats, or even humans in search of food.

Illegal dumping in bushes will increase the risk of runaway fires.

In short, residents must take responsibility for their actions the whole year round if we are to protect our fragile environment.

Remember, it is illegal to dump builders' rubble, old furniture, household appliances or other waste next to roads or on open erven.

We urge all households to dispose of excess refuse properly, either by taking it directly to the transfer stations, drop-offs or using the designated skip bins. When you do so, please do not leave your waste outside the facility or next to the skip/bin.

We especially appeal to those who witness illegal dumping near their yard or at the end of their street to speak up and report it. If you see illegal dumping, please report the incident to the law enforcement office at 028 313 8996, the Overstrand Contact Centre at 028 313 8000/8111 or via the Collab Citizen App.

Remember, household waste in wheelie bins and bags must only be put out on the morning of the designated waste collection day for your area.

Furthermore, if you live in an area where baboons are a problem, you must dispose of your waste in an animal-proof bin.