

April  
2011

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
Stanford	028 341 8500	028 341 0445
24 Hour Emergency Fire Brigade	028 313 8000/8111	028 312 2400

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## • RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY RATES INCREASE OF 5% PROPOSED

# ADVANCED BUDGET ON TRACK

The draft Operational and Capital Budget for 2011/12, indicative budget forecasts for 2012/13 and 2013/14 and draft budget-related policies were tabled at the February Council meeting, a month earlier than the normal time scheduled for this process. The last revision of the Integrated Development Plan for the 2006 to 2011 period was also presented.

The Mayor, Cllr Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, congratulated all involved – officials, councillors and ward committee members – whose hard work and cooperation made it possible to bring the budget process a month forward in order to complete the task before the municipal elections on 18 May this year.

These documents were made available for public scrutiny and comment until the end of March and the latter will be considered with the final budget proposals at a special Council meeting scheduled to take place on 4 May 2011.

The total budget – operational and capital combined – amounts to R922 million for 2011/12, which will be a great injection into the local economy, while the cost to the consumer has been kept to a baseline increase of 5 percent on residential property tax, 8 percent on business property tax and 8 percent on consumer services, excluding electricity.

The proposed capital budget amounts

to R177 935 000 in 2011/12, an increase of 6,7 percent from the 2010/11 adjusted budget of R166 705 000. The background to this is that the municipality has been investing in new bulk infrastructure and the upgrading of the existing infrastructure over the past three years to address the backlog and the need to address the strain that the aging infrastructure is placing on service delivery.

Capital budget spend will be R94 million from own sources in the coming year, but in future this will require a balancing act between cost and affordability because external borrowing cannot continue indefinitely. Council intends to fund this amount with an external loan of R50 million, cash from land sales amounting to R34 million and cash amounting to R8,5 million. This excludes the existing ring-

fenced external loans for water, sewage and electricity.

An amount of R6,5 million was awarded for ward-specific projects totalling R500 000 in each of the 13 wards that will come into existence with the municipal elections.

The operational expenditure budget proposed for 2011/12 is R744 337 000

compared to the current amended budget of R682 262 000 and represents a 9,1 percent increase compared to the 23 percent increase of the 2009/10 budget. The total revenue budget proposed amounts to R658 658 000, excluding grants. This is in relation to an adjusted budget of R584 660 000 in 2010/11 and represents a 12,65 percent increase.



**AGE IN ACTION**

## GENERAL VALUATIONS UNDERWAY

The current municipal property roll expires on 30 June 2012 where after a new valuation roll will come into effect on 1 July 2012. The date of valuation for the new roll is 2 July 2011; in other words, the value of properties on the new roll will be comparable with the market value of properties as on 2 July 2011.

Following on an open tender process, Boland Valuers CC, the same consortium of valuers who executed the previous general valuation in 2007, has once again been appointed to do this work. With the information they already

have at their disposal, it is anticipated that the valuation will be hassle free and that it will not be necessary to visit all properties.

The valuers have already been working in the field from 1 February 2011 with a view to gathering information, and residents of Overstrand Municipality are kindly requested to assist them where necessary. The valuers will be clearly identifiable.

The new valuation roll will only be published after the valuation process has been completed. It is at this point where owners, as is customary, will be

afforded the opportunity to follow the process of lodging objections with and making representations to the Valuation Appeals Board. The valuations are conducted in terms of the Property Rates Act of 2004.

The 2nd of July will also be the date which in future will be used to do supplementary valuations.

Enquiries and problems experienced with valuers can be directed telephonically to 028 313 8000 or by email to kbauermeester@overstrand.gov.za for the attention of Mr Kobus Bauermeester or Mrs Carien de Beer.

On Thursday 10 March 2011, more than six hundred senior citizens converged from all over the Overberg and even further afield to participate in a sports day where they could show their skills and agility in items such as the egg-and-spoon, duck-walk, passing-the-ball, dressing, apple-in-the-bowl and bag race as well as in the 100 meter jog, pulling-a-rope, potato-peel, walking-stick and candle-blow competitions. Jointly organised by the Age-in-Action organisation and Overstrand Municipality, this was a day to honour the elderly for their contribution to nation building in the past. Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie called on them to use every available opportunity to instil the values of being a good citizen in the young people of today.

# LOOK OUT FOR WATER LEAKAGES

Undetected water leakages can be very costly due to the stepped tariff structure that is applied in the Overstrand Municipality.

In terms of the Overstrand Municipality's Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy the customer are responsible for payment of the full account when a water leakage occurs on his side of the water meter.

The only exceptions are in cases where the loss of water was maliciously caused or the municipality carried out maintenance work on the supply side and air could have affected the reading of the meter.

In the case of a malicious act, this must be reported to the police and a case number be allocated. Keep in mind that the matter will also be properly investigated by the municipality and in one case it was found that the affidavit made by a resident was false, and a court case of perjury is now adding to the woes of this customer.

Representations regarding abnormally high water accounts are dealt with administratively in terms of the policy and can not be directed to Council.

Although it is a hard line to take, the

issue at stake here is if it is fair to let all ratepayers share in the paying for an individual's "negligence", because the water loss is also costing money. Although you might not have caused the leakage, it is your responsibility to regular check your water pipes and meter. This will help you to detect and repair water leakages in time.

Quite often there are major water losses at holiday homes. The best practice is to turn off the main connection when there is nobody staying in a house for a long period. If it must be kept on for some of other reason, somebody must be tasked to inspect the

property regularly.

Regular checks of the water meter after turning off all taps in the house will also help to determine if there are

leakages underground or leaking plumbing somewhere in the household. Leaking taps and toilets also cause unnecessary water losses.



*Hermanus played a major role in the inaugural Tour of South Africa on Friday 25 February 2011 when twenty teams of top SA and international cyclists were set off by Cllr Ben Solomon from the Old Harbour on the penultimate stage of this exciting new road cycling event. Hosting the start of the sixth stage of the race not only resulted in international media coverage for Overstrand but earned the appreciation of both the organisers and participants for the colour and cheer local schools and enthusiasts lend to the event.*



## PLOUGHING BACK INTO COMMUNITY

The *gratis* master classes offered during the last weekend of February by the duo ZAPPA MAINOLFI from Europe were very well attended, and all concerned expressed their gratitude towards Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK). Pictured here in their company is 16-year-old Lorenzo van Schalkwyk, a Hermanus High School learner, who is scheduled to do his Grade 5 UNISA exam in April. Lorenzo is also on the Junior Town Council. On Saturday, 16 April 2011, OAK will present a programme of chamber music with well-known Cape Town-based soprano Lente Louw, clarinetist David Little and pianist Albie van Schalkwyk.

Works by Schumann, Spohr and Schubert will be performed. Tickets are R80 and R40 for students.

**Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Any further enquiries can be directed to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.**



## Rugby tournament headed for an exciting final

This year, the first Mayoral Rugby Tournament in Overstrand lived up to all expectations and an exciting final can be expected on Saturday 9 April 2011 at the Mount Pleasant sports grounds.

During February and March, six local teams played against one another according to a round-robin system to determine who will be competing in the finals. The outcome is that Black Leaves (Gansbaai) and Kleinmond will be playing in the main game and the winner will be walking off with the Mayoral Cup.

Hawston and Atlantics (Hermanus) will be playing off for the third place and Black Birds (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley) and Universals (Stanford) for the fifth place.

The course of the tournament was marked by quite a number of huge surprises of which Black Birds' victory over Black Leaves, who plays in the Boland super league, probably caused the biggest upset. Nevertheless, it seems as if the call

for action has been heeded in time and that it will be a case of force against force in the finals.

Rugby enthusiasts can look forward to good rugby at the upcoming festive event where no admission will be charged. Keep an eye on the media for the programme of the day, which yet had to be finalised at the time Bulletin went to print.



**0800 701 701**

## How to register for the Municipality's SMS service

SMS your account number with the letters **SMS** to **082 338 1631** or contact a Client Services Officer at your closest Rates Hall.

