



MARCH 2015

Hermanus	Telephone 028 313 8000	Fax 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	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

PLANNING ON SELLING REAL ESTATE? FOLLOW THESE POINTERS TO OBTAIN RATES CLEARANCE HASSLE-FREE

First and foremost, Overstrand's Rates and Data Control Office would like to point out that applications for rates clearance certificates are handled by a conveyancer (attorney) and not by the seller. The municipality will only issue a clearance certificate once it has received a completed prescribed application form together with all required documentation from the conveyancer. However, the seller remains responsible for paying all costs incurred in this regard, as well as for settling any outstanding amounts owed to the municipality.

In the case of properties with improvements, the property will first be inspected by the Building Control Department whereafter the conveyancer will be notified of the outstanding amounts payable and any building violations that need attention. The cost of such an inspection is R250.

Rates clearance applications for properties without any improvements require an initial inspection by the Fire Department before the conveyancer is 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. The plot-clearing administration fee is R1 000 plus the actual cost of clearing the plot, which will be levied as per Tender No 1481/2014.

In all instances, the costs for applications either manually, via e-mail or fax for rates clearance certificates plus valuation certificates amount to R385. The costs for electronic applications via Korbitec or L@W for the same certificates amount to R122.

On the sale of any property within Overstrand's jurisdiction, Council will prevent 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 90 days, with the amount due for payment being calculated as follows:

- Applications received between the 1st and the 14th of the month will include three months' advance collections plus all current outstanding debt on the property.
- Applications received between the 15th and the end of the month will include four months' advance collections plus all current outstanding debt on the property.

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

Where any residential or non-residential 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 paid.

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).

Any queries with regard to the above can be directed to Overstrand's Rates and Data Control Office at tel no 028 313 8000 or fax no 028 312 1894 or by email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

SOUTH AFRICA'S AUDITOR-GENERAL, KIMI MAKWETU,

and a team of senior officials from his office recently paid a visit to Overstrand as part of a countrywide tour of local authorities to



entrench the principle of complying with audit standards no matter what. To conclude Makwetu's meeting with high-ranking municipal officials, he and his team were treated to a whistle-stop tour of some of the key service delivery projects in the area.

Amongst others, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald and Overstrand's directors accompanied Makwetu and his team on a visit to the new 66kV Walker Bay Substation built in the Hermanus industrial area. At a project value of around R29 million, this substation will not only increase the capacity to provide electricity to the Hermanus area but also offers cost savings as it is considerably cheaper to purchase electricity at 66kV than at the hitherto 11kV.

AND THE WINNERS ARE... SOUTH AFRICA!

To coincide with the 2015 African Cup of Nations event, Overstrand Municipality organised its own mini soccer tournament where eight under-15 soccer teams competed in a knock-out bout for their very own AFCON trophy.

To add a little extra spin to the event, each of the competing teams heralding from Gansbaai, Stanford, Mt Pleasant, Zwelihle, Hawston and Kleinmond were assigned the name of a country partaking in the "real" AFCON tournament.

"South Africa" (Zwelihle) did everyone proud, gallantly defeating "Ghana" (Gansbaai) two-nil in the finals.



The proud captain of the winning team receives the Mini AFCON Cup from Cllr Vuyani Macocha.

A SUSTAINABLE BALANCE BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT SERVES ALL

Although the promotion of local economic development is of utmost importance to ensure the social and economic prosperity of Overstrand and its people, it is equally important to always keep the wellness of our natural treasure in mind, because it is undeniably nature that lends such a unique character to Overstrand.

To find this balance is no easy feat. In fact, to quote Tarron Dry, a project manager in the section Environmental Management Services, this task can be summarised as follows: "applying adaptive and creative thinking to an ever changing and unpredictable environment in an attempt to manage the future outcomes of a system that is beyond our control."

Nevertheless, in its service delivery to the community, Overstrand's Environmental Management Services Department is committed to making a marked difference to the wellbeing and protection of the natural environment.

In essence the Department is responsible for the effective management of municipal nature reserves and open spaces with biodiversity importance and ensuring that the municipality's environmental footprint is as insignificant as possible. To accomplish this, all developments are evaluated for environmental sustainability, with the section rendering advice on environmental matters to stakeholders, councillors and officials on an ongoing basis.

This year, the section will be expanding its activities even further by launching a number of programmes which, amongst others, are aimed at monitoring and managing environmental threats, revising the existing environmental management plan based on an environmental audit and developing a coastal management plan for the Overberg in conjunction with other stakeholders.

In addition, the section will play an active role in establishing a forum for the management of estuaries, implementing the Working-for-Water and Working-for-the-Coast programmes, concluding co-management agreements with local conservation organisations and drafting an integrated fire management plan for conservation areas.

Liezl Bezuidenhout, Senior Manager of the Environmental Department, says she and her team are geared to tackle a hectic year in which they will actively work on enhancing the value of the natural and rural environment as well as that of green spaces for the people of the Overstrand.

For more information on the activities of Overstrand's Environmental Management Services Department, contact Ms Bezuidenhout on 028 313 8256.

WORLD TB DAY

On 24 March people will yet again be reminded that the world has not yet conquered TB. This day that marks the discovery of the cause of tuberculosis a little over a 130 years ago serves to remind us all that we have a role to play in preventing the spread of this deadly disease.

If you have been battling with a persistent cough for longer than two weeks and simultaneously experience symptoms such as weight loss, poor appetite, chills, night sweats, chest pain and breathing difficulties, have yourself tested for TB as soon as possible.

Also be sure to cover your mouth when you cough and to turn your face away when someone else does.

Ensuring a sufficient supply of fresh air in crowded places will go a long way to prevent the spread of the disease, too. Thus, be sure to open the windows in a crowded room or taxi.

If we work together, we can put an end to TB.

TB testing and treatment are available at any of the nine primary health care clinics in Overstrand.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR EASTER WEEKEND

With the 2014/15 Christmas Season something of the past, Overstrand is already gearing itself for a busy Easter holiday. Even though the weather may be somewhat unpredictable during March/April, the hospitality industry is optimistic that the pleasant conditions experienced over the Festive Season will result in visitors interested in experiencing this unique setting's seasonal change firsthand returning in their droves.

What's more: Many a sensational delight on the Overstrand menu is said to top even the best the rest of the world has to offer. By way of example, the Passion Play* presented annually on Good Friday at the Old Harbour in Hermanus has been said to surpass even that of Oberammergau.

For detailed information on events and gatherings planned for the Easter holidays visit www.capewhalecoast.com or your nearest tourism office.

***The Passion Play on Friday 3 April will start promptly at 20:00 in the Old Harbour, Hermanus, but is preceded by a preview from 17:00 onwards. Further details in this regard can be obtained by calling Fanus le Roux on 078 483 3080.**

KEEP OVERSTRAND SA'S GREENEST TOWN

Simply follow the rules for refuse removal

If there is one thing that really spoils a town's streets, it is refuse dumped on sidewalks.

That black bag thoughtlessly left out for the night is mostly torn to bits by stray animals or scavengers hunting for salvageable articles by the next morning.

Although Overstrand's residents mostly co-operate wonderfully by separating their household refuse into two bags - one for the so-called "wet waste" (black bag) and one for recyclable items (the clear bag provided by Council) - many are still in violation of the Council's ordinances, which stipulate that refuse may only be placed out for collection on the morning of the day it is officially removed.

Residents should also take note that the habit of leaving bags on the street corner or outside the absent neighbour's door does not go unnoticed.

And then there are those who often try to slip in an extra bag of garden waste: Remember, all households are limited to one bag of garden waste per collection only.

There are reasons why Overstrand's refuse management team separates garden waste from household refuse: Firstly, garden waste takes up unnecessary space at the landfill sites earmarked for household refuse. More importantly, though, garden waste is recycled in a completely different manner by turning it into compost to the benefit of the environment. Similarly, builders' rubble is utilised as coverage for the landfill sites.

Irresponsible Overstrand residents who persistently mix builders' rubble, garden waste and household refuse will eventually be the cause of an increase in refuse removal rates, because Council will need extra labour to separate the respective items on their behalf.

Be sure to also discuss this issue with your neighbour, the weekender! All too often weekend visitors simply drop their refuse on the street corner in passing or, worse still, dump redundant furnishings next to igloos which are actually intended for recyclable materials.

Also be sure to remind yourself and your neighbours that the use of problem-animal-proof bins are compulsory in declared problem-animal areas.

Do keep in mind, too, that a transgression of any of these ordinances could earn you a hefty fine.

Let's all do our bit to keep our towns green and clean.

STEINWAY ARTIST SET TO ENTHRALL



On Friday, 13 March, the Civic Auditorium's stage will yet again belong to pianist Spencer Myer from the USA. He is a former winner of UNISA's international piano competition who enthralled Overstrand audiences three years ago. This time round, Myer will play works by Scarlatti, Schumann, Ravel, Barber and Bolcom.

The concert commences at 19:00 and tickets cost R120 (R60 for students). Book with BELLINI by calling 028 312 4988, or call OAK Secretary, René du Plooy, on 082 940 4238 for more information.

