

SEPTEMBER 2016

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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



A MEMORABLE OCCASION INDEED - With Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald, lending a hand, Ald Rudolph Smith had the honour to be inaugurated as Executive Mayor of Overstrand by Adv Albert Fritz, Minister of Social Development in the Western Cape (1), while Adv Lennit Max, member of the provincial parliament, bestowed similar honours on newly elected Deputy Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee (2) and Mr Masizole Mngasela, MPP, on the Speaker Ald Anton Coetsee.

PLANS AFOOT TO GROW LOCAL ECONOMY

Mayor appeals to entrepreneurs and business people to join hands to unlock Overstrand's full potential and eliminate a major threat to the Municipality's long-term sustainability: unemployment!

Upon delivering his speech on Friday, 12 August 2016, Alderman Rudolph Smith - Overstrand's newly inaugurated Executive Mayor - announced that one of Council's first priorities will be to establish a business advisory committee comprised of both representatives from the local private sector and entrepreneurs.

"Even though Overstrand is the third fastest growing municipality in the Western Cape and contributes 33% to the economy of the Overberg district as a whole, we believe that by strengthening our partnerships with local business people and entrepreneurs, we can attract more investors," he said. To this he added that Council in particular needs the input of the private sector to help eliminate unnecessary red tape so that favourable economic conditions can be created that will unlock Overstrand's full development potential.

Smith gave the undertaking that the Municipality will continue to focus on providing the necessary infrastructure to create a favourable physical climate where all citizens have access to municipal services of the highest standard. In particular, implementing the five-year housing development plan, upgrading of ageing infrastructure and curbing losses in the water and electrical systems will be prioritised.

Still on the subject of living conditions, the Mayor said that citizens' safety

is a cause for concern. He called upon all stakeholders - the SAPS, local law enforcers, neighbourhood watches and security companies - to work together to address this issue as a matter of urgency. He added that safety at schools will be improved by way of an adopt-a-cop programme while the establishment and training of street committees are to be fast-tracked.

Smith said that a special effort will be made to bring local government even closer to the community during the next five years. "To strengthen the partnership between our communities and the Municipality, we are considering the establishment of satellite offices in community halls to ease residents' access to their ward councillors," he elaborated. "In particular, we need the community's input to address the need for early childhood development, elderly care, health care, and sport and recreation opportunities."

Having thanked the outgoing Council for its endeavours to place Overstrand on a sound financial footing, Smith concluded his address with the undertaking that the five portfolios - finance, community services, management services, protection services, infrastructure and planning and local economic development and tourism - will continue to build on this legacy and do their utmost to realise Overstrand's vision, namely to be a centre of excellence for all it serves.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS OF OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY



Back (from left to right): Cllr Simphiwe Tebele, Cllr Elnora Gillion, Cllr Lindile Ntsabo, Cllr Fanie Krige, Cllr Archie Klaas, Cllr Benet Molefe, Cllr Grant Cohen, Cllr Connie Tafu-Nwonkwo, Cllr Xolani Msweli, Cllr Valerie Pungupungu, Cllr Arnie Africa, Cllr Andrew Komani, Cllr Siphiso Kalolo.
Front (from left to right): Ald Michelle Sapepa, Cllr Moira Opperman, Cllr Riana de Coning, Cllr Vuyani Macotha, Speaker Ald Anton Coetsee, Executive Mayor Ald Rudolph Smith, Deputy Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee, Ald Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Cllr David Botha, Cllr Dr Junita Kloppers-Lourens, Cllr Kari Brice. Absent: Cllr Theodorah Nqinata

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH FYNBOS AND FIRE



Anyone who wants to learn more about the unique interrelationship between flora, fauna and fire must diarize the Hermanus Flower Festival - an enlightening experience which will be hosted from 22 - 25 September at the Fernkloof Nature Reserve.

Other than offering an opportunity to simply spend some quality time with family and friends in a truly awesome setting, the organisers of this festival did their utmost to introduce all and sundry to the delights of the Cape Floristic Kingdom.

The entrance fee for adults is R20, while children under 12 or in school uniform can enter free of charge. On top of that, Thursday 22 September has been designated as "Pensioners' Day" - implying that all pensioners can enjoy full access to the Flower Festival for as little as R10.

For more information on the Hermanus Flower Festival, call Pam Herd on 082 823 5232 or visit www.fernkloof.com.

WHALE COAST MALL ON TRACK

Upgrading of the local road network in the vicinity of the 30 000 m² Whale Coast Mall in Sandbaai has been progressing reasonably well, project manager Dennis Hendriks reports.

This project, which is to be completed in phases over a period of 15 months, involves major upgrades to sections of Sandbaai Main Road, Bergsig Street and Schulphoek Road.

Sandbaai Main Road will therefore be closed to traffic until 25 November to complete the first phase of the upgrade between KaapAgri-Mark and Bergsig Street.

The good news is that the northern section between entrance 1 and 2 (the Engen and Tambali exits) will be re-opened as early as 23 September to allow motorists to turn right into Sandbaai Main Road in the direction of the provincial road (R43). However, no left turning into Sandbaai will be possible.

Both the municipality and the contractor would like to thank the public for their patience and cooperation while this essential work is underway and offer their assurance that they are doing their utmost to ensure that the road works will be completed as quickly as possible and with minimal disruption.

Should you have any queries regarding this project, feel free to contact Dennis on 082 416 8676 or the developer's representative, Leon Louw, on 083 324 5928.



Exhibiting Excellence

"Art is a common denominator that inspires people the world over. Through art we can escape the mundane and recognise beauty even in the bleakest of circumstances." This, according to Mayor Rudolph Smith, is why he declared his office a **public gallery**.

"We have so much talent in the Overstrand - artists who are seldom recognised for their unique and honest portrayal of society and the world we live in. I would like to afford them the recognition they deserve by making my office available to display their works," he stated.

As from September 2016, works by local artists will be exhibited in the mayoral suite on a rotational basis. Artists who are interested in submitting their works for exhibition are kindly requested to contact Mari Geyer at artintheoffice1@gmail.com.

Currently visitors to the mayoral suite can view works by Anna Lamprecht, Maryna Visagie and Susan Karalis. Pictured here is a work titled *Donkey Car* rendered in oil on canvas by Anna Lamprecht.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Overstrand's annual **Night of Excellence** will be held on Tuesday 4 October in the Hermanus Auditorium. The winner of the coveted Mayoral Trophy for Environmental Conservation as well as Overstrand's Woman of the Year will be announced at this gala event, while several Achievers of Excellence will also receive recognition for their unique contributions to our society.

Proceedings will commence promptly at 18:00.

Affordable Housing Need Survey

Overstrand Municipality is in the process of collecting information pertaining to the need and demand for *affordable* housing within the municipal area. (The affordable housing market can be defined as households earning an income of between R3 501 and R25 000 per month.)

By way of this survey, the municipality aims to arrive at a reliable picture of those households/people living in Overstrand who are in need of or have a demand for affordable housing and who have the intent to make use of such housing opportunities - be it to rent or buy.

As part of the survey, homes in certain areas will be selected randomly for door-to-door visits where residents will be asked to complete a questionnaire. However, in an attempt to arrive at a reasonable sample of people in need of affordable housing, we need the assistance of our readers: Included with this month's *Bulletin*, you will find a questionnaire pertaining to housing needs.

Even if these needs do not apply to you directly, please assist the research team by asking everyone within your sphere of influence to whom this may apply to complete the attached questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires can be dropped off at your local municipal office or library, or you can e-mail them to ajacobs@overstrand.gov.za. Note that all submissions must reach us by no later than 30 September 2016. Should you have any questions in this regard, you can contact Abigail Jacobs on 028 313 5075 during office hours.

Ladies in Uniform Geared to Support Women's Month

On Monday, 8 August, Overstrand's ladies in uniform announced their integrated plan to help put an end to the carnage on our roads and to protect both Overstrand's community and its wildlife. Hosted at the Zwelihle Community Hall, this event was planned to coincide with Women's Month and was attended by 28 female representatives of Overstrand's uniformed forces, representing Overstrand Protection Services, Hermanus SAPS, Provincial Traffic Services as well as Marine and Coastal Management.

In the course of Women's Month, Overstrand's ladies in uniform plan to visit old-age homes, hospices, schools and places of safety that offer temporary homes to children at risk. Their prerogative, though, remains to enforce the law.

When asked what value they attach to celebrating Women's Month, the attendees were unequivocal in their response: Women's Month is a celebration of women's rights to be fully-fledged citizens who are free to realise their full potential without prejudice and without fear of retribution. On the other hand, though, it is also a reminder that society should not turn a blind eye towards women the world over - and perhaps even right next door to us - who might still be exploited, abused and denied their right to be treated equally and with respect.



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE...



With no fewer than two trios on the menu, OAK will be welcoming a veritable cross section of some of the world's top performers to the Civic Auditorium's stage in the course of September.

First to take their bow on Friday 9 September at 19:00 are the UK duo (piano and soprano), MELICUS, who will be joined by compatriot Corinne Morris (cello) to perform works by Schubert, Granados, Ginastera, Liszt and Piazzolla.

Then at 15:30 on Sunday 25 September the South African-born

cellist Peter Maartens, the Russian violinist Sergey Malov and pianist Bryan Wallick from the USA will entertain our discerning audience with works by *Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Shostakovich*.

Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Tickets are R130 (R60 for students). All other enquiries can be directed to OAK secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.