

COVID-19: STATE OF AFFAIRS



"Overstrand Municipality has a duty to keep its residents abreast of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in its area of jurisdiction and the steps it is taking to help curb the devastating impact of this pandemic," Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee said.

At the time of going to press, there were eleven confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Overstrand but, to date, no deaths as a result of the virus have been reported.

"As a community, our first line of defence is to adhere to the measures instituted by the national government," the Mayor said, adding that "as difficult as it may be, practising social distancing by staying home as far as possible is the one thing all of us can do to not only protect ourselves but also those near and dear to us".

"We are doing our utmost to protect our healthcare workers and those employees who continue to render essential services in these trying times. Testing in the area is coordinated by the provincial Department of Health and will be stepped up in the weeks ahead. As part of our contingency planning, we have also identified several venues throughout the region that could be used to isolate those who are unable to practise self-isolation should the need arise."

All community halls and sport facilities will remain closed till further notice, while the municipality asks that residents call the Disaster Management Unit on 028 313 5041 well in advance to make arrangements for funeral services.

Given that the lockdown will inevitably result in many finding themselves in financial difficulties, the municipality also appeals to all ratepayers to call the Credit Control Division in their area timeously so that arrangements can be made where necessary for the settlement of municipal accounts.

The balance due on your municipal account can be requested electronically by sending an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za or an SMS to 082 561 6625. Should this not be possible, simply pay the same amount as you did last month. Payments can be made via EFT or at any food retail store by making use of Easy Pay and the likes.

SAFE HAVEN FOR THE HOMELESS DURING PANDEMIC

In response to the announcement of a nationwide lockdown, the Moffat Hall in Mount Pleasant was identified as venue where the homeless can be housed and looked after in an attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19 amongst this highly vulnerable section of our population.

Shortly thereafter, Overstrand Municipality's law enforcement officers set out to fetch homeless people and to take them to the hall.

Should you happen to be aware of a homeless person who has not yet made his/her way to this shelter, please call 028 313 8996 without delay so that the necessary arrangements for safe transportation can be made. **DO NOT** transport the person yourself since this could endanger your health. Simply inform the law enforcement officers of the time and location where the person was last seen.

Again, we appeal to the community not to take food directly to the hall. Drop your donations off in the marked trolleys at participating food stores so that the network-of-care teams can distribute it safely.

REACHING OUT TO THE DESTITUTE IN A TIME OF EXTRAORDINARY NEED

The world over, the outbreak of the corona virus has caused havoc in people's lives. Not only does this virus pose a dire threat to our health, it has also resulted in many a citizen finding themselves without the means to support their families. Typically, many an organisation and individual stepped into the breach immediately after the announcement of the national lockdown towards the end of March.

"The willingness of Overstrand residents to go to extraordinary lengths to help those in need never ceases to amaze me," Overstrand's Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee admitted. "As local authority, we are grateful for every bit of assistance you are willing to offer," he said. At the same time, though, the Mayor cautioned that the municipality also has a duty to ensure that the 'compassionate', too, remain safe.

"Given the heightened sanitary requirements and the ongoing need for social distancing, we strongly advise against dispensing of and handing out contributions in an uncontrolled manner," he warned.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Overstrand Municipality established a network of disaster management and care teams. Jointly, these teams do their utmost to monitor and curb the outbreak, as well as to ensure that aid is provided to the needy.

"For the sake of your own wellbeing, please continue to make use of the municipality's official channels to distribute your much appreciated contributions and donations," the Mayor urged. "From our side, we undertake to ensure that it will be distributed equably," he promised.

To get into contact with the network-of-care team in your area, call Overstrand's Disaster Management Unit on 028 313 5041.

As an alternative, you can drop off **non-perishable foodstuffs and essential toiletries** in trolleys marked for this purpose at the following stores in Overstrand:

HERMANUS

- OK Foods (Gateway)
- OK Mini Market (Voëlklip, Onrus)
- Pick n Pay
- Checkers (CBD, Whale Coast Mall)
- Woolworths (CBD, Whale Coast Mall)
- Food Lover's Market (Mall)

GANSBAAI

- Spar
- OK Foods

PEARLY BEACH

- Local fruit and vegetable store

STANFORD

- OK MiniMark

HANGKLIP

- Rooi Els Village Shop
- MiniMart Pringle Bay
- Village Deli Pringle Bay
- Centre Shop Betty's Bay
- Penguin Place Betty's Bay

KLEINMOND

- Spar
- OK Store
- Any other local food store

Donations of especially the following items will be most appreciated:

FOODSTUFFS:

- Maize meal
- Rice
- Samp
- Beans
- Canned foods (especially tomato & onion mix / braai relish / baked beans / pilchards)
- Other non-perishable foods, provided they are in their original packaging

PACKAGING:

- Heavy-duty bags (i.e. black bags)

TOILETRIES:

- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste
- Soap / hand wash
- Sanitary towels
- Nappies

DETERGENTS:

- Antibacterial cleaning products
- Washing powder
- Gloves

SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures

Overstrand Municipality appeals to residents to be responsible and to adhere to the guidelines below before placing waste out for removal on scheduled days. Everyone will need to do their part by practising good hygiene and taking precautions to curb the spread of COVID-19.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPER HANDLING AND STORAGE OF DOMESTIC WASTE GENERATED BY ALL WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19:

1. All waste items (e.g. used tissues, disposable cleaning cloths, gloves, masks, etc.) that have been in contact with individuals who are confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 must be disposed of securely within a black refuse bag, separate from the rest of the household's refuse.
2. When full, this black refuse bag must then be placed in a second black refuse bag (double bag) and tied to prevent any waste from spilling from the bag.
3. Double-bagged refuse bags must be stored separately for five (5) days in direct sunlight before being placed out for collection. The safest option would be to store bags for an additional week before the scheduled waste-collection day. This will ensure that the COVID-19 virus is killed.
4. Where wheelie bins are used, residents are reminded to have all personal hygiene and sanitary products double bagged (placed within two small plastic bags) before placing waste inside a bin. Examples of personal hygiene and sanitary products are tissues, used gloves, masks and the likes.

ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD HYGIENE TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE IN GENERAL:

5. Please sanitise or wash hands with water and soap for 20 seconds *before and after* handling wheelie bins or black refuse bags. This measure is to protect both you and the teams responsible for rendering essential refuse removal services.
6. In the case of wheelie bins, please also sanitise the bin's handles and cover.
7. Wheelie bins or black refuse bags should be placed out for removal on scheduled days *only and only after the above-mentioned steps have been followed*.
8. Secure bags and bins properly to prevent pets and problem animals from tearing the bags and/or spilling the contents.
9. Please refrain from approaching refuse removal personnel. Keep a distance of 1.5 m at all times.

Overstrand Municipality appeals to all residents to please stay home as far as possible and to only go out for food, medicine and medical support when it is absolutely necessary. In this way, you will protect not only yourself but also your family, friends and neighbours from getting infected.

If you need specific information, visit the Western Cape Government webpage at <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/departments-of-health/coronavirus>.

BABOON REPORT HUMANS STEADFASTLY REFUSE TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR

According to the latest report submitted by Human Wildlife Solutions, the specialised service provider appointed by Council to manage and control baboons, there are still some residents in baboon-affected areas who disregard the municipality's by-laws pertaining to waste disposal in problem-animal areas. To cite an example, project manager Dr Phil Richardson remarked "the majority of bins in Voëlklip are not baboon-proof and many residents often leave open refuse bags on sidewalks. This is a major attractant and greatly increases the difficulty to manage baboon troops – particularly on waste collection days."

Seemingly, too, residents have not heeded the advice to remove sweet-smelling fruit from trees in their gardens before they ripen and to baboon-proof their vegetable patches.

On top of that, of the reported occasions where baboons did manage to raid homes, the majority can be ascribed to unprotected doors and/or windows being left open.

Given the current scenario, Human Wildlife Solutions' recommendation is that refuse removal should be prioritised in affected areas – hopefully as early as possible in the morning before the troops start marauding. On a positive note, though, troop-size seemingly remains consistent: The Voëlklip troop now stands at 26, and the Pringle Bay troop still stands at 17.

To view the latest report submitted by Human Wildlife Solutions, visit www.hwsolutions.co.za.



TAKING OUT TRASH

Our Solid Waste Removal personnel are exposed to more than 2000 bins and bags per day. We can help them by taking the following steps:



Use gloves when taking out trash bags or pushing out wheelie bins.



Wash hands with water and soap for 20 seconds after taking out bags or wheelie bins.



Now more than ever, make every drop count

In the months ahead, water is going to play a crucial role in our attempts to combat the outbreak of COVID-19.

To curb the spread of the virus, people are reminded time and time again to wash their hands. In addition, those who do fall ill are urged to drink as much water as possible since taking in fluids is essential to aid the recovery process.

For this reason, and given that we have not yet escaped the consequences of a protracted drought, we simply cannot afford to let potable water go to waste.

In short, abusing this valuable resource during these trying times would not only be selfish, it may well have dire consequences.

On the upside, though, given that we are all pretty much confined to our homes, this is the ideal time to take care of some nagging issues in and around the house. **Use this time to:**

- Fix that leaking tap or toilet
- Install a brick or bottle filled with water in the toilet's cistern to keep it from filling up all the way
- Figure out ways to safely harvest and use rain- and grey water so that it can be used to water the garden or to wash the car
- Demonstrate to everyone in the household how changing a habit, or adopting a new one, can help save water.

As negligible as they may seem, changing a habit or adopting a new one can go a long way towards ensuring that we make every drop count.

Some "old habits" that must be changed are:

- To let the tap run while you brush your teeth
- To do the laundry when you do not have a full load
- To take a bath rather than a shower
- To rinse vegetables and fruit under running water

Some "new habits" that must be adopted are:

- To wash fruit and vegetables in a container: If you are in the habit of using a colander for this purpose, place a bowl underneath to catch the water. This water can then be used to water your plants.
- To boil your food in as little water as possible: This will not only save on cooking time, but will also help to retain more flavour and nutrients in your food.
- To not let cooking water go to waste: Set it aside to cool and use it to water the garden.

THREE SPECIAL RATING AREAS APPROVED IN OVERSTRAND

Council granted approval for Kleinmond and Hermanus as well as Onrus-Vermont to be declared Special Rating Areas (SRA's).

In essence, owners of rateable properties in these areas will in future contribute towards strengthening law enforcement and promoting a safe, healthy and clean environment by paying a levy based on the municipal valuation of their properties.

According to the Municipal Property Rates Act, this levy has to be a percentage of the value of each rateable property on the respective valuation rolls and will amount to a tariff of 0.0005 times the valuation per annum (and not a fixed amount). For example, on a residential property with a municipal valuation of between R1 million and R1.5 million, the additional levy will amount to between R22 and R33.67 per month.

This additional monthly rate payment will be collected by the municipality from property owners in the area and paid over to the non-profit company responsible for operating the SRA. The first additional monthly levy will be payable in July 2020.

Included in the Kleinmond Special Rating Area (KSRA) are all properties falling within the boundaries of Kleinmond, being Heuningklouf as the eastern boundary, the coastline as the southern boundary, Palmiet (including the informal settlement) as the western boundary and the mountain as the northern boundary.

The Onrus-Vermont Special Rating Area (OVSRA) encompasses all areas in Ward 13, in other words Onrus, Onrus North, Berghof and Vermont. Hermanus Special Rating Area (HSRA) will include all properties in the area within the boundaries of 17th Avenue in Voëlklip in the east up to Swartdam Road in the west, with Still Street as the southern border and Fernkloof Nature Reserve as the northern border.

All three SRA's indicated that they will be prioritising the installation of CCTV cameras as a first step to help curb crime. More details regarding planned initiatives can be obtained by contacting the respective steering committees at info@kleinmondsag.co.za or onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com or hermanussra.co.za.