



MARCH 2013

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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

FESTIVE START FOR ELUXOLWENI HOUSING PROJECT SQUATTERS' CAMP UPGRADED TO PROVIDE IN HOUSING NEED

The ceremonial sod turning event for the upgrading of the informal settlement of Eluxolweni close to Pearly Beach took place with great and enthusiastic community interest on Wednesday, 13 February.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie was so taken with the singing that she joined the community's ladies in a dance or two. A mbongi (praise singer) announced the arrival of the Western Cape Minister of Human Settlements, Mr Bonginkozi Madikizela.

This project is the forerunner in Overstrand Municipality's new approach to work off the existing housing waiting list in terms of the Eight Year Housing Plan, that will focus on the provision of serviced erven. The cost of this programme is estimated at R894 million.

The co-operation of the Eluxolweni community surprised all and sundry and more than a hundred structures that stood on the construction site were moved within ten days.

Upon completion a total of 211 serviced erven will be available. Not all beneficiaries will qualify for top structures, although more will be built, but all of them will enjoy the advantages of land tenure, improved safety and health conditions and the empowerment possibilities related to land ownership, the Mayor said.

She added that all the potential beneficiaries had already been identified and that the criteria for participation had been determined. People



Councillors and other roleplayers show a huge interest during the sod turning ceremony where Minister Bonginkozi Madikizela is assisted by Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie

who had been disqualified in the past because their total household income exceeded the maximum limits, or where the head of the household was a minor with whom no contract could be concluded or those who had owned houses in the past, would be assisted through this project.

According to Ms Botha-Guthrie the Municipality had made a serious commitment to the ideal of providing a roof over the heads of the poorer sections of the community and important steps had already been taken to improve delivery and the administration of housing.

The official housing need at the end of December 2012 according to the Municipality's Housing

Data Basis stood at 6 321 families and there were 3 409 shacks in the area. The Municipality received R35 million for housing projects in 2013/14 and this will be used to provide 460 serviced erven and develop 333 homes in the whole of the municipal area.

Mr Madikizela pointed out that the backlogs nationally and in the Western Cape are tremendous and that the resources are far less than the needs. Accompanying that is an even bigger backlog in the provision of infrastructure. Planners need to work creatively to provide maximally in the need and success can only be achieved if everybody co-operated.

Politics should be kept out of development as too many projects do not get off the ground because of internal differences between different factions.

Ms Buseka Jonas, on behalf of the community, said that they are crystal clear about the challenges facing them, but that they would like to assure the authorities that the Eluxolweni project will be the best one ever. She also expressed the hope that it will create job opportunities for them and that they are prepared to take hands with everyone concerned to ensure success.



Mayor joins in traditional dances!



Refreshments enjoyed by all afterwards



Construction site cleared in record time

SWITCHING ON TO EARTH HOUR 2013

Every year Earth Hour is celebrated around the world from 20:30 to 21:30 local time on 23 March. It serves as a reminder to people everywhere that human activities, especially energy consumption, have a serious impact on the planet, notably our contribution to climate change.

This year Overstrand will once again be part of the global Earth Hour movement. Whale Coast Conservation, in partnership with the Municipality and the Overstrand Junior Council, will organise a fun event on Market Square in front of the Whale Museum.

In contrast to previous years when we were all asked to switch off our lights for an hour as a symbol of our commitment to reducing our impact on the global environment, we will not switch off this year, but switch on. Yes, that is correct! We are going to encourage the people of the Overstrand to switch over to LED lights that use so little energy that we need no longer feel guilty about lighting up our lives!

To illustrate what we mean, we will light up a whale. Well, since the real ones have already gone down south, we will have to make do with the model in front of the Whale Museum. And for good measure we'll light up the two museums on Market Square as well. We appeal to all businesses that don't yet have LED lighting, to switch off their lights for that hour to show both commitment to the environment and help to make the 'switching on' spectacular.

To further add to the fun there will be singing and dancing girls as well. Yes, we know the Stormers will be brewing up a storm at Newlands against the Brumbies that evening, so the

singing and dancing will only commence after the match. What better way to celebrate a win for both the Stormers and the planet?

And when all the fun is done, we will remember that "Every Hour is Earth Hour".



RUNNER-UP FOR KAMOSI AWARD



Overstrand Municipality received recognition for excelling in the implementation of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) during the 2011/12 financial year. The purpose of this programme is to provide additional work opportunities over the short to medium term coupled with training. In order to promote participation in the programme the Kamosi Awards were launched in 2007 to reward public bodies and non-state organisations who are helping the programme to succeed. Overstrand Municipality entered for the best infrastructure maintenance project and its Mechanised Water Pipe Replacement Project was selected as the runner-up in this category for 2011/2012. At the presentation of the certificate to Council at a special meeting on 23 January were from left the Municipal Manager, Mr Coenie Groenewald, the Director of Economic Development, Mr Solomzi Madikane, Acting Mayor, Ald Pieter Scholtz, and the Chief Director of EPWP, Mr Richard Petersen.

YOUR CO-OPERATION NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE TANKER SERVICE

Big parts of Overstrand are not connected to our sewer networks and therefore many residents make use of our tanker service to remove sewage from their premises. As a result, the service comes under tremendous pressure, especially during holiday periods, because people wait too long before ordering a service and then have to endure discomfort or even embarrassment.

The following list of tips may help to ease arrangements and to plan better:

- Clients must try to order the services at least one day in advance. This will enable the supervisors to draw up an effective service schedule which will save time as well as fuel.
- Because of the nature of the service it is not possible to deliver a specific service at a specific time. Delays develop easily, especially during long weekends and school holidays.
- Sewage tanker teams already start their days in the early morning and work till late to get through all the work scheduled for the day, but under normal circumstances no tankers will be sent out before 05:00 or after 24:00.
- Sewage tanker teams must have access to the sewage suction points at all times once their services are ordered. Home owners are advised to ensure that their own suction points are placed on the erf boundary closest to the street.
- If a sewage tank cannot be pumped because the team was sent back by the client or if the property was not accessible, a call out fee will be charged to recover costs. Please discuss possible problems when the service is ordered.
- Home owners are advised to check their sewage tariffs closely and, if beneficial, to change over to the tariff based on water consumption which will enable them to request tanker services on a regular basis during normal working hours without any additional charges.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT DISCUSSED ON 23 MARCH 2013

Overstrand Municipality's draft annual report for 2011/12, which was tabled at a special Council meeting on Tuesday, 23 January 2013, will be considered with all the comments and representations it received during the time it was open for public scrutiny, at a meeting scheduled for 27 March 2013. This meeting will be open to the public.

One of the highlights of this report is the fact that the Municipality received an unqualified audit report for the sixth consecutive year.

The annual report, however, also provides opportunity for a thorough introspection to determine whether the Municipality is still on course. According to Ald Pieter Scholtz, Acting Mayor at the time of tabling the report, "an organisation's annual report is extremely valuable and helps to navigate it through the obstacles and pitfalls of the past, to benchmark standards of performance and to set goals for improvement."

He called on all stakeholders, especially the ratepayers' associations and community organisations, to use this document to give the Municipality feedback, proposals and comments as Council is also in the process of reviewing its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

The report, which is in a very legible format and easier to use for reference purposes, can still be accessed on the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za and hard copies are available at administrative offices and public libraries.

YOUNG MASTER ON STAGE



25 year old Czech born LUKAS VONDRACEK, winner of the 12th UNISA International Piano Competition, currently on his South African tour, will be giving a recital in the Hermanus Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, 24 March at 15:30. Don't miss this opportunity of listening to a young master who gave his first concert at the age of 4! He will play Piano Pieces Op 118 by Brahms; Piano Sonata No 4 Op 30 by Scriabin; Variations on a Theme of Corelli; Op 42 by Rachmaninoff; 2 Nocturnes by Chopin; and Three Czech Dances by Martinů.

Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Tickets are R100 (R50 for students). Enquiries to Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.

