

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

LAW ENFORCERS FULLY EQUIPPED TO PUT AN END TO "CRIME AND GRIME"



In preparation for the implementation of the *Safer Festive Season* operational plan, Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsabo (in his capacity as the MAYCO member responsible for protection services) hosted a workshop in Hermanus early in December to ensure that everyone involved in safety and security are fully equipped to perform their duties diligently and within the law.

The workshop was attended by law enforcement officials, traffic officers and safety monitors and focused on the interpretation of the relevant by-laws as well as on how to conduct inspections and deal with the public in general.

"With the assistance of other stakeholders such as the SAPS, neighbourhood watches and security companies, we intend to maintain a high level of visibility by, amongst others, conducting regular patrols along roads and at tourism hotspots," Cllr Ntsabo said at the time.

"Our message for this season is quite simple: We take the business of looking after the health and safety of our residents and visitors seriously and will do everything in our power to prevent crime and grime," he added.

A SAFER FESTIVE SEASON?



At the time of launching the *Joint Operational Plan for a Safer Festive Season* early in December 2022, Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, urged all law enforcers to act decisively but with due respect for the law. She also made use of this occasion to announce that a mobile police station will, in future, be deployed in and around Zwelihle – a welcome addition that will go a long way towards safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of surrounding communities.

At the time of going to press, no final statistics for the 2022/2023 festive season regarding crime, traffic violations and other serious incidents were available yet.

Nevertheless, Major General Mocholobi [SAPS District Commissioner], Dr Annelie Rabie [Executive Mayor] and Dean O'Neill [Municipal Manager] are of the opinion that visible policing did, indeed, pay off.

Joint operations to ensure a Safer Festive Season were officially launched on Friday, 2 December 2022 and all indications are that the relevant parties are more than satisfied with the outcome thus far.

"We sent a clear message to criminals that they are not welcome in our towns and appealed to all residents and visitors to remain vigilant and to report any sign of criminal activity immediately.

"Thanks to the huge effort the SAPS and our law enforcement and traffic officials made to ensure that everyone who lives in or visited Overstrand remained safe, I believe our joint operational plan will deliver on the desired outcomes.

"As always, we will continue to build on the lessons we have learnt and will jointly make sure that all who choose Overstrand as their home remain safe and sound," Mayor Rabie said.

Once verified, statistics regarding the 2022/2023 plan for a safer festive season will be reported via the municipality's official channels.

CAPACITATING SMALL BUSINESSES

60 ENTREPRENEURS NOW REARING TO GO

A couple of months ago, entrepreneurs from previously disadvantaged groups were invited to apply for admission to the Financial Literacy and Micro-enterprise Programme.

This programme (abbreviated as FLAME) is the brainchild of the Association for Savings & Investment SA (ASISA) and is offered throughout the country in partnership with local stakeholders.

In the case of Overstrand, those stakeholders include Overstrand Municipality's Department of Local Economic Development, the Grootbos Foundation, Kamva Capital and the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

With financial literacy at its core, FLAME is a multi-phased programme that aims to capacitate business owners with the practical and relatable information and skills they need to manage and grow their businesses.

Out of the ± 130 applications received, a total of sixty entrepreneurs were admitted to Phase 1 of the programme, which involved a gruelling eight weeks of intensive workshops and training.

The intention with this phase was not only to impart knowledge, but also to access beneficiaries' ability to engage with the programme's content (e.g. personal financial literacy, goal setting, entrepreneurship, business ideation and modelling, costing and budgeting).

REARING TO GO:

The Overstrand entrepreneurs who have completed the first phase of the FLAME programme



This phase of the programme drew to a close on Wednesday, 7 December 2022 at which time the 60 participants were handed their certificates of completion during a special ceremony held at the multi-purpose centre in Hermanus' New Harbour. Of the sixty, only half will proceed to Phase 2 and 3.

In total, the curriculum stretches across 15 months and will involve regular visits to the entrepreneurs' premises to ascertain how they are faring with employing what they have learnt in practice.

These "mentorship sessions" also involve discussions around the marketing possibilities digital and social media offer and why having insurance and saving for one's retirement is important.

CAUTION! SLACK DOWN! ANIMALS AHEAD!



As much as we love welcoming family, friends and visitors to the Overstrand, we must caution that the speed limits on our residential roads must be observed at all times.

In fact, it is advisable to drop your speed to well below that limit because you do not want to be the one to cause the demise of a beloved pet – leave alone a tortoise or one of our feathered brethren – that is crossing the road at leisure and has never grasped the rule to first look right, then left and then right again.

Yes, the word “pedestrian” in this neck of the woods has a rather all-encompassing meaning and, as a community, we are doing our utmost to ensure that none of them are run over by someone in a hurry.

Please be on the lookout for cautionary signs and be sure to adjust your speed accordingly.

A little patience to allow a slow-moving tortoise to cross the road, a gosling to get her brood to the opposite pavement, a baboon to scamper off and Fluffy to get home safely to his family won't be any skin of your nose. The opposite, though, can't be said for them.

We thank you for your cooperation.

PROUDLY UNFURLING BLUE FLAGS HIGH FIVE, OVERSTRAND!



What better way to kick-off the holiday season than to dig a toe in the sand?

And that is exactly what several dignitaries did when they attended the unfurling of the first of five Blue Flags that will proudly be flying for the duration of the season in Overstrand.

Judging by their attire, 2 December 2022 turned out to be a rather blistery day but, as Cllr Ronald Nutt (MAYCO member for community services) jokingly pointed out: “Even though the weather may not always play along, we now do have international confirmation that at least everything else, including water quality, is of the highest standard.

“It is also heart-warming to know that people the world over recognise the effort everyone present here is making to preserve the integrity of our coastal ecosystems and to ensure that future generations are capacitated to carry this legacy forward.

“For that, we owe all involved a great deal of gratitude: Well done!”

This year, Castle Beach hosted the official launch of the Blue Flag season.

Among the dignitaries who attended this joyous occasion were Councillors Riana de Coning, Dudley Coetzee, Steven Fourie and Jacobus van Staden; area managers Desmond Lakey, Anver Wyngaard, Buli Plaatjies-Mbane and Francois Myburgh; Blue Flag coordinator Lauren Rainbird; and Gansbaai Tourism office manager Glenda Kitley.

The Blue Flag season will run from 1 December 2022 to 22 January 2023 for Castle, Hawston, Kleinmond and Onrus, with an extended season until 31 March 2023 for Grotto.

Lifeguards and security services will be on duty daily from 09:00 until 18:00 for the duration, while people with disabilities will also be able to make use of the beach wheelchairs at Grotto while lifeguards are on duty.

Castle Beach hoisted its Blue Flag for the third consecutive year, Grotto for the 22nd consecutive time, Onrus for the second time and both Hawston and Kleinmond for the 17th time.

It's inevitable:

LOAD SHEDDING WILL IMPACT INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICE DELIVERY



Load shedding affects everyone, and Overstrand Municipality is no exception.

As is to be expected, the usual influx of visitors to the area over the holiday season will place our water and sanitation infrastructure under increased pressure: A situation that will be exacerbated if Eskom continues to impose higher levels of load shedding where the electricity supply can be disrupted for up to 4.5 hours at a time and for up to 12 hours in a 24-hour period.

Rest assured that every possible step to counter the impact periodic/extended disruptions in electricity supply might have on Overstrand's water and sanitation infrastructure has been taken:

- Most of the critical water and wastewater installations have been equipped with standby generators, which will be supplied with diesel continuously and will be monitored to ensure seamless switchovers as far as possible.
- Mobile generators/suction tankers will be on standby to service sensitive installations.
- Water and wastewater pumps will be operating at maximum level when not load shedding.

Unfortunately, not all installations have been equipped with generators yet.

Consequently, residents in some high lying areas may temporarily experience low water pressure and even water supply interruptions because of extended load shedding events.

This is because reservoirs might not be filled adequately during periods between load shedding, or because booster pump systems might be out of operation during load shedding events.

There is also the possibility that some sewerage pump stations not yet equipped with generators may spill during extended periods of load shedding. In instances such as these, warning signs will be erected where necessary.

We appeal to all residents and visitors to use water sparingly as this will assist in, firstly, conserving reservoir levels and, secondly, reducing wastewater flows which will alleviate pressure on sewerage pump stations.

Thank you for your cooperation in these trying times.

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR OUR LIBRARIANS: THEY ARE UNDER SIEGE



Recently, libraries throughout the Western Cape were forced to shut their doors for a day or two so that they could verify that borrowed library material have been duly returned so that those items could be placed back on the shelves – and they were forced to go through the entire process manually.

As is evident from the stacks and stacks of material in question, that was quite a daunting task.

Sadly, the glitch currently experienced with the provincial library information management system has not been resolved yet, which means that librarians have no option but to revert to a “manual system”.

Accordingly, the barcode of every item borrowed from the library must be recorded on paper.

This also implies that library members will have to fill out a form every time they want to take out a book.

Naturally, in a world where we are used to checking out things by simply scanning a bar code, being forced to use a manual system can cause a great deal of frustration.

Rest assured, though, the Director of Library Services in the Western Cape, Cecilia Sani, gave the assurance that the issues currently experienced with the SLIMS server are being attended to as a matter of urgency.

Meanwhile, please spare a thought for our librarians: The matter is beyond their control.

Be patient and keep in mind that if ever they needed your support, it is right now.

Of course, you can always download the LIBBY app and read an e-book while waiting until the Western Cape's library system is up and running again.