

NOVEMBER 2014

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

Summer spells sun and sapphire but also strong winds and fire hazards



When last did you conduct a fire safety "audit" on your property? The summer months in the Western Cape traditionally herald the fire season, and seeing that your garden and the fynbos grew so lushly during the winter months, the time has come to check whether that very paradise isn't perhaps threatening

your own property, and those of your neighbours.

Firewise gardeners in this neck of the woods ensure that, by November, they have rid their gardens of all dead wood, especially

under the fynbos, and that overgrowing branches and shrubs have been trimmed back so as to create a clear buffer zone of at least 5 m around buildings. On larger properties with considerable natural vegetation, this zone ought to be no less than 10 m in width.

A luscious green lawn stretching from the property's boundary right up to the buildings will, of course, serve the same purpose.

Especially on properties in mountain areas and/or within the boundaries of the biosphere, new growth of encroaching vegetation such as Port Jacksons, Myrtle, Rooikrans and Blue Gums must be eradicated, while owners of vacant erven must take care to ensure that vegetation on their properties do not pose a fire hazard for neighbouring homes.

We guess we don't have to remind you as well that where there's smoke, there's a fire - even if it is only a braai. Thus, please ensure that all braai fires are made in appropriate containers or barbecues and are thoroughly extinguished after you have enjoyed your tasty meal. Also remember not to dispose of hot coals in refuse bins!

In short, do the right thing so both you and your neighbours can enjoy a pleasant, disaster-free holiday.

If you need to report an emergency or fire or would like some advice on how to safeguard your property against fire, contact Overstrand's Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management Services on 028 313 8980.

MAYOR RE-SHUFFLES HER EXCO

Following the recent tragic passing of Councillor Mzameni Mshenxiswa (Ward 5) and the rather unexpected resignation of two Councillors - Pieter Scholtz (Ward 2) and Ben Solomon (Ward 7) - Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie announced that with effect from 1 October 2014, her executive committee will be constituted as follows:

The portfolio committee for infrastructure and planning is to be chaired by Cllr R Smith, who was also elected as Deputy Mayor. Cllr M Opperman will chair the portfolio committee for community services, Cllr P Appelgrein the portfolio committees for management and protection services, and Cllr D Coetzee the portfolio committees for finance and local economic development.

By-elections will be held on Wednesday 26 November to elect new councillors for the vacated Wards 2, 5 and 7.

OVERSTRAND SPORT FESTIVAL - top teams geared for the showdown

On Saturday 1 November 2014, Overstrand's top soccer, rugby, netball and cricket teams will face one another, much to the glee of their enthusiastic supporters.

Ever since the Overstrand Sports Festival has been instituted by the Mayor, this annual event has succeeded in uniting sports enthusiasts from all over in the spirit of good sportsmanship and to instil a love of sport in young and old.

Alongside Overstrand Municipality, the Overberg Wheelchair Association will once again host an array of board games along the side lines where those living with disabilities can showcase their dexterity in games ranging from darts to dominoes, chess, kerem and morabaraba.

The festival kicks off at 06:00 at the Mount Pleasant sports grounds and will draw to a close at round 17:00. Be sure to arrive early to secure your spot!

FEEL FREE TO DRINK FROM THE TAP: IT'S SAFE!

In the latest Blue Drop audit, five of Overstrand's eight water schemes scored more than 95% and the remaining three all above 91.5%. This implies that the municipality can safely say that the water it provides complies with the stringent standards set in the SANS 0241 Code for drinking water. This code, which has been instituted by the South African Bureau of Standards, is largely based on the standards of the World Health Organisation.

In Overstrand's municipal area, water samples are collected monthly from 56 points to measure thirteen different bacteriological, chemical and physical parameters at each. From this it is evident that the water quality is outstanding, with 100% of the bacteriological tests complying with the standard during the past year.

The five water schemes that scored above 95% in the latest audit received Blue Drop status. This status is awarded by the National Department of Water and Sanitation to water schemes that meet certain criteria including risk management, water treatment process management, drinking water quality and the regulation and management of water infrastructure assets.

FIREWORKS



Every year residents and visitors alike welcome the New Year with spectacular fireworks displays, a spectacle most people enjoy, provided those who practise this custom observe the rules and regulations, play it safe and are considerate.

For the sake of both man and beast, fireworks may only be discharged between the hours of 23:00 and 01:00 on New Year's Eve at the following prescribed locations: Grotto Beach east, near the lagoon mouth; Hawston beach (NOT from the camping site or the parking area or the harbour); the Uilenskraalmond beach; the Stanford Bay beach (De Kelders) and Kleinmond main beach. Please remember that all rockets and airborne fireworks must be set off over the ocean to reduce the possibility of descending into fynbos and/or mountain areas.

Organised fireworks/pyrotechnics displays are limited to traditional locations and will only be permitted with consent from the Chief Fire Officer.

Discharging fireworks from any other area (including your own backyard) and at any other time will result in a hefty fine and could even see transgressors spending the first part of 2015 in jail. You can be assured that law enforcement agencies will take action against any person who acts irresponsibly outside the prescribed legislation.

Note, too, that the use of any flame-emitting device, specifically Chinese lanterns and emergency flares, is prohibited by law. So, people, be sensible and don't even think about setting off these items since you have no way of knowing where they might land, causing a fire and resulting in tragedy for others. Remember that you will be held liable for any damages caused.

Finally, be considerate! If everyone sticks to the stipulated terrains and times, animosity between neighbours and the distress this custom causes for animals, can be kept to a minimum.

Any special requests regarding fireworks displays and/or other enquiries must be directed to the Chief Fire Officer on 028 313 8980 during office hours.

SPREAD "GOODWILL" AMONGST THE NEEDY

Several initiatives are in full swing all over Overstrand to bring a little joy to those in need this year. Many of us would like to contribute but are unsure who to approach or where to drop off our goodies. Here are some worthy options to consider:

- **Santa Shoebox Project** - this inspiring community initiative of the Kidz2Kidz Trust involves the distribution of personalised gifts at Christmas time to underprivileged children across the country. Fill your gift box with some necessities such as toothpaste and toothbrush, facecloth and soap, as well as some sweets, educational supplies, a toy and a set of clothing. For more information, call Wendie Cleary on 028 316 2257, but hurry because boxes should be dropped off in Hermanus or Gansbaai by no later than 18:00, on Saturday 1 November.

- **Bags of Love** - through this campaign, the poorest of the poor in the Overstrand can enjoy a bag full of basic necessities and quite often a few Christmas treats as well. As part of the initiative, bags (provided) are filled with basic groceries from a standard shopping list and distributed to needy families just before Christmas. The grocery items can be bought at certain chain stores in Hermanus at a cost of approximately R130. **For more information, call Des Collins on 082 824 1058 or 028 316 4434.**



KARWYDESKRAAL TO RESUME OPERATIONS EARLY NEXT YEAR

When the Karwyderskraal landfill site unavoidably had to be closed in December 2011 due to lack of space, plans to accommodate the Kleinmond and Hermanus solid waste elsewhere had to be made in a hurry. Thankfully, Overstrand already operated a legally licensed dumping site in Gansbaai at that stage and the refuse could be diverted there.

However, this arrangement went hand in

hand with a tremendous rise in costs because the transport distance increased drastically and additional cells had to be built at the Gansbaai landfill site to accommodate the extra volumes. Above all, motorists had to contend with the increased load of heavy duty traffic on the narrow road between Hermanus and Gansbaai which often caused major traffic congestion and frustration.

Good news now is that Overstrand Muni-

ci-pality and Overberg District Municipality have entered into a negotiated rental agreement whereby Overstrand will construct and manage a new cell at Karwyderskraal at own cost. The tender process has already been finalised and a contractor has been appointed. It is expected that this cell will be fully operational by April 2015 and therefore solid waste from Kleinmond and Hermanus may be dumped there yet again.

GIVE RISING COSTS A DECISIVE BLOW: SWITCH TO PREPAID ELECTRICITY

For many a payer of municipal bills, it often comes as a shock to see just how much electricity a household and/or business is, in fact, consuming in a month. However, there is a simple and relatively cheap way to put an end to the uncontrolled consumption of the "utility" electricity which, in the long run, can offer huge savings.

For starters, by switching from a credit meter to prepaid electricity means that you will be saving on every kilowatt-hour (or unit) used. But more importantly, you will be able to control exactly how much electricity your household / business consumes.

The conversion costs R968 and the deposit on this is R424. Also bear in mind that you can use your current deposit to cover the conversion costs and that a private electrician is not required if a PLC meter is installed. This device can be plugged into the nearest wall plug. However, if you want to make use of the usual wall unit, the services of a private electrician will be required which could result in extra costs.

World pianist's virtuosity bound to dazzle



On Sunday afternoon 16 November, Overstrand Arts/Kunste will host Russian-born pianist **Andrei Pisarev** in concert.



Andrei Pisarev

Winner of many an acclaimed international award, including the UNISA-Transnet international piano competition, this virtuoso who teaches at the Moscow Conservatory will play Mozart's Fantasia Rondo, Beethoven's Sonata in C Minor, Schumann's Noveletta and four scherzos as well as the Nocturno in E Minor by Chopin. The concert starts at 15h30.

Call BELLINI on 028 312 4988 to book. Tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Any other enquiries can be directed to OAK secretary, René du Plooy, on 082 940 4238.