

FEBRUARY 2015

24 Hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

LAW ENFORCERS LAUD HOLIDAYMAKERS FOR EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION

Thanks to the excellent co-operation of holidaymakers and the high visibility of Overstrand's law enforcers, the 2014/15 festive season has been nearly incident-free. Had it not been for the tragic drowning of a 20-year-old male at Kleinmond Beach on 29 November, it would also have been fatality-free.

Given that all Overstrand beaches were extremely busy from the 19th of December onwards (reportedly, more than twenty thousand people visited Grotto daily) and the hike in traffic volumes experienced throughout the area, this is indeed an achievement to be proud of.

According to Lester Smith, Acting Director: Public Protection, only one collision at the juncture between the R44 and R43 resulted in serious injuries to an occupant of one of the two vehicles involved. As has been the case in the past, most traffic violations related to speeding (3 031 offences) with a motorcyclist caught travelling at 147 in a 60 km/h zone in the Kleinmond area coming out tops. Incoming traffic counts show that as many as 895 vehicles per hour entered the area on the 12th of December, with 736 vehicles leaving per hour on the 4th of January.

Unruly behaviour and drinking in public resulted in fines to the tune of R24 000 being issued to beach revellers. However, only four people had to be arrested (three at Onrus and one at Hawston Beach) since Overstrand officials, with the assistance of the SAPS, managed to resolve most issues on the spot. Thankfully, too, no lost children were reported on any of the beaches, with only one child who had to be reunited with her parents at the Kleinmond Day Camp on New Year's Day.

According to the Fire Chief, strict monitoring resulted in fewer incidents being reported on New Year's Eve with only a handful of minors and

foreign visitors having to be warned against setting off fireworks unlawfully. Nevertheless, Overstrand Fire and Rescue had to attend to ten veld fires between the hours of 9 pm and 2 am the same evening, of which four were confirmed to be caused by fireworks. Despite strong winds, all fires were quickly brought under control though.

On reflection, Smith said "due to a highly efficient, committed and visible team, Overstrand's Protection Services can claim success. However, we also owe the public a big 'thank you' for being more than willing to co-operate. Even dog owners willingly complied with our by-laws and kept their dogs on leashes. Thank you everyone!"

As is to be expected, some lessons were learnt in the process too. For one, it was decided that the practice of "dive bombing" should be banned at public pools since this nearly caused a major incident at the Hawston pool.

With the 2014/15 season a thing of the past, all officials are eagerly looking forward to improving on their success record next time round.

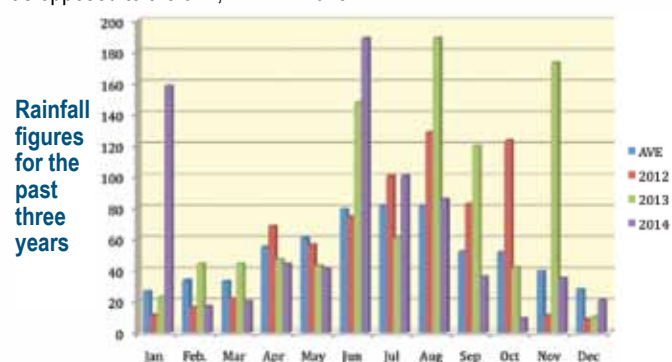
Note from the editor: Shortly before going to press, Bulletin learnt with great sadness of two more drownings at Hawston Beach on Sunday 11 January 2015. According to our sources, Council immediately commissioned an extensive investigation into the matter since these were the first drownings to occur at any of Overstrand's Blue Flag beaches since 2002 whilst lifesavers were in attendance. (Blue Flag status at Kleinmond Beach only came into effect on 15 December, implying that no lifesavers had to be in attendance at the time of the reported drowning on 29 November last year.) Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the families.

LOWER RAINFALL NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN (YET)

Despite the below-average precipitation recorded during the months of spring, the level of the De Bos dam still stands at 90,6%. In January 2013, it stood at 96,2% and at 88,5% the year before that, with the lowest level (34%) being recorded end of January 2011.

The favourable level of the dam can largely be ascribed to the excellent co-operation of consumers, as well as the consistent use of boreholes.

Good rainfall since 2012 has increased the average annual rainfall to 624,5 mm. Nevertheless, the total rainfall in 2014 measured 754,5 mm as opposed to the 941,2 mm in 2013.



BIRD FAIR

If you are interested in birds, don't miss out on the birding event of the year.

Stanford Bird Club and Hermanus Bird Club have joined forces to host the first ever Walker Bay Bird Fair, based in Stanford, at



the end of February. It will offer something special to everyone, from serious twitchers to casual garden birders.

Over the four days from Wednesday 25 February, you will have the opportunity to spot common and rare birds on land, on the river and on the ocean, under expert guidance. For instance, you may see the iconic Cape Rockjumper at Rooi-Els, the shy Little Bittern on the Klein River, Albatrosses on cruises to Dyer Island and Denham's Bustard on a trip to De Mond.

On the last two days, top international and South African bird specialists will explain to you the wonderful symbiotic relationship between insects, birds and animals, teach you to identify raptors, show you how to take better bird photographs, and much more.

More information on the Walker Bay Bird Fair can be obtained at www.stanfordbirdclub.co.za. You are also welcome to call Liz Hochfelden on 082 766 8319 or 028 341 0164 or to send an e-mail to walkerbaybirdfair@gmail.com.

GANSBAAI TAKES THE LEAD IN WATER PURIFICATION

With the recent commissioning of the Baardskeerdersbos waterworks, the third in its area to utilise membrane separation processes, the Gansbaai Administration can now claim to be on the forefront of potable water purification technology.

In purification works such as these, ultra- and microfiltration processes are used to remove particles, colloids and macromolecules to ensure that water satisfying the SANS's rigid standards for drinking water is provided to residents.

Furthermore, the new boreholes that have been completed alongside these waterworks over a period of 16 months at a total cost of R7 million will ensure that residents of this unspoiled jewel of the Overstrand will not have to worry about a sustainable source of purified water for the foreseeable future.

BATTLING TO PAY YOUR MUNICIPAL BILL? CONSIDER APPLYING FOR AN INDIGENT GRANT

According to Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, the municipality is all too aware that many people are battling to meet their financial obligations. "Especially at the beginning of the year when many a household has to pinch and scrape to pay school fees and to get the kids ready for the new school year, it would be sad if municipal services have to be terminated because residents neglected to make timely arrangements to settle their bills or to apply for an indigent grant," she said.

To qualify for an indigent grant, the total household income may not exceed the sum of four times the amount of the state-funded social pension per month, irrespective of the municipal valuation of the property. The usage of the property must be predominantly private residential, the average monthly consumption of electricity by the household over the previous 12 months may not exceed 400 kW, while the average monthly consumption of water by the household over the previous 12 months should not have exceeded 18 kℓ.

In addition, applicants must:

- be the registered owner of the property, the heir to a deceased estate or a party to a divorce;
- not be the registered owner of more than one property; and
- be a full-time occupant of the property.

To see whether you qualify for an indigent grant, take the following along to your nearest municipal rates office:

- RSA identity document if you are older than 18 or a copy of your birth certificate if you are not yet 18;
- latest salary/wage slip or letter from employer confirming income of all occupants;
- an affidavit that indicates the income earned if you are self-employed;
- proof of disability, pension and maintenance grant;
- an affidavit confirming unemployment and a declaration that there is no other source of income;
- a bank statement for the last three months;
- decree of divorce/court order;
- documents relating to a deceased estate; and
- latest municipal account.

In case of a tenant, a copy of the rental contract, owner's identity documents and permission letter from the owner to apply for an indigent grant are required. Also note that a deposit will be payable to open a tenant account.

Karwyderskraal's new cell expected to be ready in April

The construction of a new cell at the Karwyderskraal landfill site is progressing well, and all indications are that refuse from Hangklip-Kleinmond and Greater Hermanus will once again be relayed to this site from April onwards. The contract to build the new cell was awarded to the company Burger & Wallace following on a bid process.

An agreement has been entered into between Overstrand and the actual owners of this landfill site, namely the Overberg District Municipality, according to which the cell will be maintained and operated by Overstrand for the duration of its lifetime, where after the operation thereof will revert to the Overberg District Municipality.

Closure of Sandbaai's mini transfer station

The Ward 7 committee unanimously agreed at their meeting in November 2014 that the mini transfer station situated in Long Street, Sandbaai should be dismantled and removed in its entirety.

Originally instituted for the convenience of weekenders and occupants of holiday homes to leave their household refuse when departing, the mini transfer station never fulfilled this purpose and posed several operational challenges. Sadly, amongst others, permanent residents took to dumping builders' rubble, garden refuse and redundant furniture at the site - a practice not only illegal, but which attracts "scavengers" and causes "dumpers" to be harassed by people looking for hand-outs.

The ward is serviced by a reliable and efficient household refuse removal system and given that the mini transfer station would have to be moved to accommodate a church which will soon be built in the vicinity, it was decided to shut down the site.

Residents are reminded that household refuse should only be placed out for collection on the actual collection day. Those who let their homes from time to time should make arrangements with a neighbour/acquaintance to do so on behalf of holidaymakers/weekenders who depart prior to the official refuse collection day.

Note, too, that only one bag of garden refuse is permissible per household per collection day. All excess garden refuse and other "ab-normal waste" such as builders' rubble, redundant furniture, hazardous materials and discarded electronic equipment must be transported to the main transfer station in Mbeki Street by the residents themselves.

Mbeki Street is the new parallel road that runs from Schulphoek to Swartdam Road, linking Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle.

"2015 MY CARING YEAR"

Given the tough year predicted for 2015, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie says that this year will be all about caring and making mutual respect the order of the day.

She would like to share the following motto with fellow Overstranders:

Before you assume, learn the facts.

Before you judge, understand why.

Before you hurt someone, feel.

Before you speak, think.

Furthermore, Botha-Guthrie says that Council is all too aware that the cost of living seems to be rising unchecked and that, for the foreseeable future at least, load shedding will be an unavoidable part of South Africans' lives.

On its part, Council will ensure that the capital budget is utilised to the hilt, even if the resources at its disposal are rather limited most of the times. It goes without saying that productivity, service delivery and good governance will be addressed in all earnest, while Council promises not to budge one inch from its zero-tolerance attitude towards wasteful and fraudulent practices.

Unavoidably, prompt settlement of municipal bills will become all the more important, and Botha-Guthrie advises all residents to rather make the necessary arrangements sooner than later if they suspect that they will not be able to meet their obligations towards the municipality (see article on indigent grants elsewhere in this edition).



Feast on Music Menu

OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE presents 2 concerts during February for music lovers in the Civic Auditorium, Hermanus.

KARLSRUHER KONZERT DUO (cello and piano) from Germany on Sunday 15th, at 15h30.

CONNECTIONS - A saxophone quartet

(players from France and SA) on Saturday 28th, at 19h00.

Tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Call **BELLINI** on 028 312 4988 to book. Enquiries: **René du Plooy** - 082 940 4238.



KARLSRUHER DUO



CONNECTIONS